

STARS AND STRIPES.®

stripes.com

Volume 75, No. 152 ©SS 2016

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016


平成28年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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BACK TO ITS ROOTS

Marine Corps refocuses on the Pacific with Blue Chromite, an exercise to strengthen rapid-response capabilities in the region

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Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment creep through tall grass on their way to seize the island's airfield from an enemy force during a drill on Oct. 31. The drill was part of Exercise Blue Chromite 2017, a Navy-Marine Corps interoperability exercise that takes place annually on and around Okinawa, Japan.

MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

GOP may get defense budget of its dreams under Trump

By KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Defense hawks are quietly celebrating the election of Donald Trump — now, they might just get more than they ever dreamed possible.

That's because Washington Republicans and the president-elect have more in common on defense

INSIDE

As Trump points to 'America first' policy, NATO tries to make its case **Page 11**

spending and priorities than it might seem given Trump's hard-line foreign policy stance against immigration, his questioning of longstanding strategic alliances

like NATO and his support for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump ally Rudy Giuliani, a contender for a Cabinet position, said

on CNN Sunday that strengthening the military is a major priority of the president-elect.

"He's going to be facing Putin with a country that is not diminishing its military, but a country that is dramatically increasing it to Reagan-like levels," Giuliani said, invoking former President Ronald Reagan's mantra of "peace through strength."

Trump and congressional Republicans are actually on the same page on a host of defense priorities, including increasing the number of active-duty troops in the Army, and the size of the Navy; large-scale modernization of military facilities, weapons and the nuclear arsenal; and a dramatic spike in missile defense.

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Trump names Bannon, Priebus as his senior White House aides

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Comedian Dave Chappelle tackles election and race in 'SNL' hosting debut

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Going it alone is not an option, either for Europe or for the United States."

— NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg in a newspaper commentary regarding President-elect Donald Trump's "America first" policy that has left speculation about what that means for the U.S. military role in the alliance

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. A man got a free Veterans Day meal at Texas Chili's. Then a manager took it away.
2. 'I've never seen anything like that': Confederate flags at Calif. Veterans Day parade
3. Bomb threat at Camp Foster theater under investigation
4. Amazon confirms order problem has been fixed for Korea-based servicemembers
5. Veterans who worked as interpreters say Pentagon failed to pay bonuses

COMING SOON

Video games

Latest "Call of Duty" fun by yourself, or with a crowd



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MILITARY

Government hiring of vets continues

Ex-servicemembers make up 44 percent of new employees

By LISA REIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration last year continued its 7-year-old commitment to bringing veterans into the federal government, with former servicemembers making up 44 percent of all full-time hires.

The largest share of veterans joined the Air Force, where they made up 62.1 percent of new employees in nonseasonal, permanent full-time jobs in fiscal 2015, according to federal data released late last week.

Veterans also were well-represented at other agencies, from the Transportation Department (55 percent) to the Social Security Administration (39.3 percent). They made up 46.4 percent of new hires at the State Department and 39.2 percent at the Labor Department.

Overall, including seasonal and full-time jobs, just under a third of new hires into federal agencies were veterans in fiscal 2015, data from the Office of Personnel Management show.

There was good news for disabled veterans, who represented 43 percent of veteran hires and more than 7 percent of total new employees. Federal employment data show that one in four disabled veterans who are employed work for the federal government. Since Obama pledged in 2009 to give veterans — particularly those who fought in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — an advantage in the long federal hiring queue, the share of full-time, permanent jobs going to them has hovered around 45 percent.

The government brought on more veterans in fiscal 2015 than 2014. But since hiring and turnover affect the overall number of veterans in the workforce, their share dropped slightly, to 43.7 percent from 47.4 percent.

The picture for veteran hiring into government could change under President-elect Donald



Office of Personnel Management data show that just under a third of new hires into the federal government were veterans in fiscal 2015. The data also show that once veterans get in, they don't stay as long as nonveterans.

Trump. He won the support of a majority of former servicemembers in last week's election. But he also has pledged to shrink the size of government, a shift that would affect veterans and nonveterans alike.

Some bad news for the government: Once veterans get in, they don't stay as long as nonveterans, the data show, even if they've transferred from another federal agency.

The growing presence in government of men and women with military backgrounds has been the most visible federal effort to reward military service since the draft ended in the 1970s.

The effort has fueled culture clashes in some federal offices, though, and resentment from job

candidates who did not serve and see their prospects for getting hired diminish. For some federal offices, finding the right fit for veterans who have different jobs skills than their colleagues has been a challenge.

In response to concerns from Pentagon officials, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., pushed a plan through the Senate this fall that would have knocked out a key advantage for veterans applying for federal jobs.

The change, in a military policy bill, would have taken away a veteran's right to go to the head of the federal hiring queue not once but twice, because veterans get preference over civilian applicants not just when they apply for

their first positions but also when they move between agencies or seek promotions.

Pentagon officials had told McCain and other lawmakers that they were unable to hire qualified candidates for some jobs because of the pressure to hire veterans. But McCain abandoned the proposal shortly before last week's election under pressure from the veterans lobby.

Some agencies brought in fewer veterans to full-time positions than others, with the Environmental Protection Agency at 21.3 percent, the Education Department at 15.1 percent and the Department of Health and Human Services at 13.2 percent.

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VETERANS

Payment open to interpretation?

Vets who worked as translators say DOD didn't follow through on bonuses

By DAVID S. CLOUD

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — When the California National Guard desperately needed interpreters to accompany troops headed to Iraq and Afghanistan, it promised enlistment bonuses of up to \$20,000 each to dozens of Arabic, Dari and Pashto speakers.

The Pentagon's need for crucial language skills on the battlefield was so great that some interpreters were put in uniform even though they were too old or had health problems that might have disqualified them from military service.

That relaxing of the rules has come back to haunt them. Many of the interpreters who went to war were only partially paid their bonuses because the California Guard had decided they were unfit for the military service that they already had given.

Some say they are now unemployed, suffering from post-traumatic stress and combat injuries. Many are embittered at the California Guard's decision, they say, broke its commitments.

"As far as I know, it's only the interpreters who didn't get paid," said Khatchig Khatchadourian, an Arabic interpreter from Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley who says the California Guard still owes him half the \$20,000 bonus it agreed to pay when he enlisted in 2008. "They think we're stupid because we are immigrants."

The plight of the interpreters, known in military jargon as 09 Limas, offers a new wrinkle in the enlistment bonus scandal that has rocked the California Guard and the top levels of the Pentagon. The Los Angeles Times/Tribune Washington Bureau reported last month that the Pentagon was demanding repayment of enlistment bonuses paid to nearly

10,000 California Guard soldiers at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan a decade ago. In response to a public outcry, and at the urging of the White House, Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered a suspension of the repayment program and set up an appeals process to review the debts.

But the 09 Limas are different. Unlike soldiers who received bonuses and were ordered to repay the money years later, the interpreters say they were never paid.

The California Guard has identified 44 interpreters who were affected by the decision, but different standards for other problems, said Col. Peter Cross, a spokesman.

"The complexity arose in cases where neither the soldier nor the Guard could locate a copy of any agreement, although work was done by the soldier that likely would have given rise to a bonus payment," he wrote in an email.

Nearly half the 09 Limas deployed within the first year and then requested to go to the Inactive National Guard to work as private contractors, who normally were paid much more, Cross said. That violated the bonus terms of their enlistment contracts, he said. To add to the confusion, soldiers serving in the same unit often enlisted under different terms and different bonus entitlements.

Enlistment bonuses for the 09 Limas also were blocked after California Guard auditors noticed that some interpreters had served in the Army even though they had failed to meet normal enlistment standards. The translators say recruiters assured them that the 09 Lima program had eased recruitment rules so they could enlist even if they were too old or in poor physical condition or had scored too low on aptitude tests.

Before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon didn't



MIC MELCON, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Former California National Guard Arabic language interpreter Khatchig Khatchadourian, 26, displays a photo of himself taken in Iraq in 2010. He served in Iraq and was offered a \$20,000 enlistment bonus. He said he has not been paid half his bonus despite a ruling that he is owed the money.

recruit many soldiers who were fluent in Middle Eastern and South Asian languages, relying on contract interpreters instead. But as the conflicts intensified, deploying combat units needed thousands of native speakers to communicate with Iraqis and Afghans on patrols or in meetings with local officials.

Although contractors were still widely used, the Pentagon wanted at least some interpreters in uniform who were trained as soldiers and who couldn't quit on short notice or refuse dangerous assignments. To meet that goal, the Pentagon in 2006 ramped up the 09 Lima program. It offered special bonuses, eased enlistment standards and even accelerated U.S. citizenship applications for immigrants who agreed to join the Army.

One of those who signed up, now a 47-year-old resident of Brentwood, near San Francisco, said the California Guard informed him in 2011 that he would not get his \$10,000 bonus because he had failed an aptitude test required of all Army recruits. Yet his low score had not stopped the Army from accepting him in 2008 and sending him to Iraq.

Like several interpreters interviewed, he asked that his name not be made public, fearing public attention would further com-

promise his attempts to get paid.

He was in many respects an ideal 09 Lima recruit. The son of a Libyan military officer, he was a U.S. citizen because he was born at Fort Benning, Ga., in the 1960s when his father was on a military exchange program. The married father of three enlisted as an Arabic interpreter after losing his job in the 2008 recession. Promised a \$10,000 enlistment bonus, he received half after completing boot camp but never got the rest despite his appeals, he said.

In Iraq from 2009 to 2011, he was close to bomb blasts and other combat while accompanying U.S. troops on missions, he said. After he returned home, a Department of Veterans Affairs doctor diagnosed him with mild traumatic brain injuries. He also needed shoulder surgery for non-combat injuries in Iraq.

When he left the Army in 2014, he gave up trying to get the bonus money. He is now in college using GI Bill benefits he is entitled to as a former soldier.

Khatchadourian was born in Syria and grew up in Lebanon before he moved to Los Angeles with his family in 2006. He joined the California Guard two years later after finishing high school.

In return for a \$20,000 bonus, he agreed to sign up for three years as an Arabic interpreter.

He planned to use the money for college.

"It was mixture of serving my country, something to do [and] money," he said, recalling his motivation.

His bonus agreement, signed by Khatchadourian and his California Guard recruiter, reads, "I will receive a total bonus of \$20,000 ... less taxes."

He got the first \$10,000 after he finished boot camp in 2009. He expected the remainder in December 2010, his second anniversary in the Army. He was then in Iraq with the 224th Sustainment Brigade, a California Guard support unit based in Long Beach. He says he never got the check — or an explanation.

When he returned home in 2011, California Guard officials said they had found a problem with his enlistment contract. He would not get the second \$10,000 — and he might have to give back the first \$10,000. Khatchadourian said he later learned that auditors flagged his bonus because he had failed to initial one page of an addendum to his contract.

In October 2015, after years of appeals, he received a letter from the National Guard Bureau, ruling that he was eligible for his entire \$20,000 bonus.

A year later, he is still waiting for the money.

Chili's apologizes after manager takes away vet's free meal

By MARK DAVID SMITH

Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram

CEDAR HILL, Texas — Dallas-based Chili's restaurant chain has apologized after video showed a manager taking away a man's free meal on Veterans Day.

Ernest Walker, 47, went to Chili's Grill and Bar on Friday for the chain's promotion of a free meal for veterans. Walker said he brought his military ID, discharge papers and service dog, Barack, and sat down to eat.

Walker, who is black, wrote on Facebook that an elderly white man wearing a Donald Trump

See video of the incident at stripes.com/go/chilivisvet



shirt approached him and "he said he was in Germany, and that they did not let Blacks serve over there. The man left, came back to get Walker's dog, and left again."

Later, as Walker was getting ready to leave with a to-go box to pick up his wife, a manager he identified as Wesley Patrick approached him from the same area where the older man had come from, Walker wrote.

The manager said a customer

told him that Walker is "not a real soldier because I had my hat on indoors," and customers nearby could hear him, Walker wrote. Walker showed him his military ID and discharge papers, and then the manager told him "the guest also said your dog is not a service dog," though "Barack had his service vest on, and his certified service tags."

That's where the video picks up, Walker wrote, where the manager refused to acknowledge Walker's military documents and took away his to-go box. The video has been viewed more than

260,000 times.

Chili's responded to the incident in a Facebook comment, saying "we feel short" to "make every guest feel special," and the situation has been "escalated to the highest levels of our company."

The Dallas Morning News reported that in a prepared statement, Chili's said it is "reaching out" to Walker, and the manager's "actions do not reflect the beliefs of our brand."

Walker told NBCDFW that he served in the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division from 1987 to 1991. On Facebook, he shared

an old military photo, saying he was a homeless teenager sleeping behind a grocery store when a recruiter saw him. He said signing up for military service saved his life.

The Associated Press reported that he bought the fatigues he was wearing Friday after he was discharged, and that his lawyer planned to meet with Chili's on Monday.

He told NBCDFW he wears the uniform without his name or rank on it once a year because he doesn't want to be mistaken for an active-duty soldier.

PACIFIC

Blue Chromite returns Marines to Pacific roots

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

IE ISLAND, Okinawa — Something roused the U.S. Marines “sleeping” on the ground around the Ie Island airstrip off the coast of Okinawa. The night watchman rushed into the tall grass, peering through his rifle scope. Another Marine popped up, then another, silhouettes in pitch blackness. Night vision cast its all-seeing gaze, and soon, there were rifles pointed toward the windswept grasslands and jungle.

The Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, forward-deployed to Okinawa’s 3rd Marine Division from Kaneohe Bay, had just seized the airfield in a surprise raid as part of Exercise Blue Chromite 2017, which ran from Oct. 29 to Nov. 4. About 2,000 Marines and sailors from Okinawa and Sasebo took part in the fourth annual Navy-Marine Corps interoperability exercise in the central, northern and Ie Shima training areas of Okinawa.

This year, the exercise was designed to bring the Corps back to its Pacific roots after more than a decade in the desert, focusing on lightning-quick expeditionary operations in which stealth and camouflage are the keys to success.

“Potential adversaries in this region have the capability of challenging us in many domains,” said Maj. Gen. Richard Simcock II, commanding general of the 3rd Marine Division.

“In the air, sea, land, also in the electromagnetic spectrum. We have to be able to fight and win in that environment. It’s going to require us to do things a little bit different. Blue Chromite gets us the opportunity to take advantage of the equipment and capabilities that we have, that we believe will be very successful in this region and have been in the past.”

Every time Marine planners build an exercise, they work to incorporate new elements, said Rear Adm. Marc Dalton, commander of the Navy’s Pacific-based, forward-deployed amphibious force. “Blue Chromite is no different.”

This year’s exercise featured short- and long-range raids, command-and-control operations in a jungle setting, bridge-building and movement of Marines by air and by sea with the additions of the amphibious transport dock USS Green Bay and the fast transport USNS Fall River. It also incorporated Air Force C-130 aircraft and Army landing craft.

Seizing an airfield

The day of the raid started early, with the India Marines being airlifted by MV-22 Osprey and CH-53E Super Stallion to Ie Island, the scene of heavy fighting in World War II. The Marines were dropped on the far edge of the island. It would take the morning and a good portion of the afternoon to reach the airfield, which was held by a sizable enemy force. Movements were slow and methodical.

The enemy in this scenario was made up of fellow Marines, and they knew India was coming.

Instead of taking the roads that crisscrossed the island, the India Marines opted for the jungle, a virtually impenetrable spiderweb of tropical plants and grasses. The intense heat and the Marines’ heavy combat load began to take their toll. There were several heat casualties along the way.

“It had its own challenges” compared to other places, said Sgt. Ricky Dryer, an assault man from the India’s weapons platoon. “A lot of times, you see more of a mountainous terrain. But here, you’ve got a lot of microterrain that can be quite challenging, especially like the thickness [of the brush]. But then you’ve got to also take into reality that you have to make sure you aren’t being seen by the enemy, so you’ve got to kind of use the terrain as you can which, with a lot of open fields, it makes it kind of difficult,” he said.

As the India Marines patrolled through the tall grass, they took fire from in front.

“Contact front,” Sgt. Cody Kelley yelled.

Kelley positioned his men, bringing up the right side of their



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

A Marine from the 9th Engineer Support Battalion strains as he helps assemble a bridge Nov. 2 at Okinawa's Central Training Area.

line. The Marines crouched low while he requested orders. Once they got the OK over the radio, they assaulted through their targets, eliminating the enemy.

The Marines hit their opponents from the side and took the airfield.

They began to guzzle water after getting resupplied, their uniforms soaked through, but it wasn’t time to sit idle. The enemy counterattacked and Marines again rushed into the fight, firing until they were out of ammunition. The enemy was repelled.

Several Marines showed off the paint markings where they had been struck in the legs or arms with the simulation rounds.

The Marines bedded down for the night, keeping a constant watch all around them. They had to hold out just a little bit longer. The big guns wouldn’t roll in until morning.

The unsung heroes

In the days that followed, the India Marines were airlifted into the Central Training Area to join others for more jungle warfare operations. A team of Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5 and Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion put together a bridge in less than 40 minutes — less than the hour allotted. It then was airlifted to span a 10-meter gap in the jungle.

Navy bridge master Petty Officer 1st Class Jaime Calle said that their bridge teams are set up so if a man or a woman from either service were to go down, someone else could step in and accomplish the mission.

“We came here to support the Marines,” Calle said. “We train

Bomb threat at Camp Foster investigated

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Military police are investigating a bomb threat made during the weekend at a Marines base on Okinawa.

A call came in just after 3 p.m. Sunday stating that there was an explosive device at Camp Foster’s movie theater, Marine Corps officials said in a statement Monday.

Military police “secured and quickly evacuated personnel

from the area” and searched the theater and surrounding buildings with help from Marines from explosive ordnance disposal and military working dogs.

No hazardous materials or devices were found, Marine officials said.

The theater and surrounding buildings were reopened about 4:15 p.m.

The incident is under investigation, and no other information was available.

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during our 12-month home port [in Port Hueneme, Calif.], so we train in different environments. We can support the Marines, Army, Air Force and any kind of activity that they do, so we’re ready to support.”

Members of both services said that they enjoyed the chance for joint operations.

“I think it’s a great experience,” said Marine Cpl. Derek Brisenden, a bridge master with 9th ESB. “It helps with cooperation between us all and it just helps get the mission done and completed faster and successfully.”

Brisenden looked up to see Super Stallions circling. During the weeklong exercise, anytime you looked up, it seemed there was some aircraft watching from above, whether it was an Osprey, a UH-1Y Venom or an AH-1W Super Cobra.

Marine aviation maintained a constant presence during Blue Chromite 2017.

“We meet their maintenance teams worked virtually around the

clock. Aviators ferried Marines from one end of Japan to the other, flying for countless hours. They refueled aircraft and vehicles on the ground, and they moved equipment including vehicles and bridges. They also operated off the USS Green Bay, which planners said was great for readiness.

The pilots slept in the field in their aircraft with the grunts nearby.

“Blue Chromite is a great exercise for us. We have all of our assets playing in the problem,” said Col. Thomas Euler, commander of Marine Aircraft Group 36. “We’re out there; we’re sleeping overnight in the field; we’re using camouflage; we’re using deception; we’re reducing our signature across all domains. We’re working aviation command and control as hard as we can, and then supporting 3rd Marine Division and everything they’re doing,” he said. “We look forward to this every year.”

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A CH-53E Super Stallion departs quickly Oct. 31 after taking Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment to Ie Island, Japan.

MILITARY

Judge delays Bergdahl trial until May 2017

BY JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — A military officer testified Monday that he saw another soldier shot in the head during the 2009 search for Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who's accused of endangering his comrades when he walked off his post in Afghanistan.

The testimony came at a pretrial hearing at which an Army judge also agreed to delay Bergdahl's trial by several months until May 15, 2017.

Prosecutors are arguing that the judge should allow evidence of two wounded soldiers' injuries into the case to help them show that Bergdahl's disappearance effectively put other military members in harm's way.

Bergdahl is charged with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, the latter of which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Air Force Maj. John Marx testified about a firefight on July 8, 2009, when he and several other U.S. military members were seeking information on Bergdahl's whereabouts with members of the Afghan National Army. They were attacked after setting a checkpoint near a town in Afghanistan.

One of the two wounded soldiers cited by prosecutors is U.S. Army National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Mark Allen. Prosecutors said he was shot in the head and suffered a traumatic brain injury that has left him in a wheelchair. Another soldier had hand injuries and required surgery because of a rocket-propelled grenade.

Marx, who said the mission's sole purpose was to search for Bergdahl, testified that he was sitting next to Allen as bullets flew overhead.

"I looked at him, then I see a trickle of blood coming down his head," Marx testified. Asked where Allen was wounded, Marx pointed at his temples and said, "Right through his head."

Marx testified that he later carried Allen to the medevac helicopter, describing it as "probably one of the toughest things I've ever done in my life."

Bergdahl, dressed in a white shirt and blue pants, appeared stoic as he listened to Monday's testimony.

Prosecutors have written in a motion that the injuries will help them show that Bergdahl endangered his comrades, one of the elements of the misbehavior before the enemy charge. They asked the judge to allow them to use the evidence in their case.



ANDREW CRAFT, THE FAYETTEVILLE (N.C.) OBSERVER/AP

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, right, arrives with his military lawyer, Lt. Col. Franklin Rosenblatt, for a legal hearing at the courtroom facility on Fort Bragg, N.C.

case.

Defense attorneys have argued in motions that Bergdahl was not responsible for the men's injuries, writing, "Allen's injuries were directly caused by the Taliban, not by SGT Bergdahl."

Further testimony and arguments were expected Monday afternoon.

Before the testimony on the soldiers' injuries, Army Col. Jeffery Nance decided to push the trial back to May after prosecutors requested a delay. They cited the pace at which they're able to get approval to give the defense classified evidence.

Defense attorneys also informed the judge that they were still waiting on software, computers and security equipment

that would allow them to review some of the sensitive material.

Nance expressed frustration and told prosecutors he would call military officials as witnesses at a pretrial hearing in December if some of the issues with classified information aren't resolved.

"Here's my problem folks. ... We will nickel and dime this until we're not trying this case until 2020," he said.

Bergdahl, who's from Hailey, Idaho, walked off his post in Afghanistan in 2009 and was held captive by the Taliban and its allies for five years. The Obama administration's decision to swap prisoners for his return was heavily criticized by some Republicans.

Spending: Sequestration could stand in way of bigger defense budget

FROM FRONT PAGE

And Trump — despite benefiting politically during the campaign from hacks of Democratic political groups — also toots the need for improved cybersecurity, which is already under discussion on Capitol Hill.

"This is all music to the ears of not only Republican leaders in defense, but many Democrats too," said Michael Herson, a prominent defense lobbyist.

Trump's team hasn't laid out all the specifics yet on defense policy, which will be largely implemented by his defense secretary. A figure like Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., or Gen. Michael Flynn — both Trump campaign surrogates — could mean a different Pentagon than if the military establishment was headed by former Bush administration adviser Stephen Hadley or an establishment hawk who has criticized Trump like Sen. Kelly Ayotte.

The biggest obstacle to enacting a wide-ranging host of GOP defense priorities is the cost — according to an estimate from the American Enterprise Institute's Mackenzie Eaglen and Rick Berger, anywhere from about \$100 billion to \$300 billion more over the next four years than President Barack Obama's current plan.

Congress can't legally spend

'Nobody gets a blank check. But I think we get the infusion we need to restore our [military] strength.'

Michael Herson
defense lobbyist

that money until it gets rid of budget caps as part of the sequester holding spending in check since the start of fiscal 2013. Trump called for the end of those budget caps on the campaign trail, promising during a September speech in Pennsylvania he would "ask Congress to fully eliminate the defense sequester and will submit a new budget to rebuild our military."

House Armed Services Committee Chair Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, "is encouraged by the president-elect's determination to rebuild America's military, a priority that Chairman Thornberry shares," his spokesman Claude Chafin said.

So, apparently, are the markets. Defense stocks spiked the day after Trump's election — with the stock value of some of the biggest defense contractors like Northrop Grumman, Raytheon and Lockheed jumping between more than 5 and 7.5 percent at the news.

But there is still resistance in Congress to Trump's plans — potentially from more fiscally conservative Republicans and from Democrats.

"There is considerably more demand for defense spending than there is money to meet that demand," House Armed Services Committee ranking member Adam Smith, D-Wash., said in the morning of the election. "Look at all the programs that are out there, from the B-21 (bomber) to upgrades to our submarines, upgrades to our arsenal, to rising personnel costs — add it all up, and it is vastly more money than we're going to have. How do you deal with that?"

Under a Trump administration, finding a way to lift budget caps depends on whether lawmakers and the president-elect can agree on a series of tax reforms and other measures, both of which could spark intraparty conflict. For example: Trump the populist

promised not to touch Social Security benefits, which are limited under the fiscal plan of House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

Progress is more likely on defense priorities because Republicans believe Trump is unlikely to adopt the Obama administration's stance that every dollar of discretionary defense spending be matched by a dollar of discretionary domestic spending, which covers such programs as food stamps, community development and education programs, and transportation and infrastructure.

Thornberry has frequently complained that Democrats' insistence on parity between domestic and defense spending effectively means defense budgets are "held hostage" to nondefense spending.

The GOP argues that means the military must choose between rehabilitating planes so old they are running on scraped-together "museum piece" replacement parts and a credible missile defense, or between giving over-taxed and under-equipped soldiers a reasonable number of training hours and funding operations against the Islamic State.

Republicans have sought to get around this by demanding emergency war funds — which are not subject to budget caps — to cover certain defense spending. Demo-

crats have repeatedly decried the tactic as a sneak attack to let the GOP avoid tough budget negotiations to end sequestration.

If the sequestration hurdle is cleared, Washington's leading defense hawks are betting they start to see defense get a long-needed influx of cash.

"Nobody gets a blank check," Herson, the lobbyist, said. "But I think we get the infusion we need to restore our strength."

The first targets for an increase would be infrastructure and materiel upgrades, replacing legacy systems and boosting the military's recruitment program, which are already Republican priorities. Then could come some of the priorities Trump has identified — such as ramping the Army up to 540,000 soldiers and increasing the Navy's fleet to 350 ships — and, Republicans hope, increasing procurement dollars for next-generation bombers and missile defense.

Trump has proposed cutting nondefense spending by about 1 percent a year, which could make way for more military investment. A recent estimate from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that under Trump's plan, by 2026, spending on non-defense programs would drop by anywhere from 29 to 37 percent.



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WAR ON TERRORISM



ALI ABDUL HASSAN/AP

Iraqi federal police guard Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad as they walk toward Karbala for the al-Arbæen ritual marking the end of the annual commemoration of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson. Six civilians were killed in a bombing in Karbala on Monday.

Suicide bombing in Iraq kills at least 6 civilians

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bombing in Iraq targeted the Shiite sacred city of Karbala on Monday, killing at least six civilians, the latest attempt by the Islamic State group to distract from the government forces' offensive on the Islamic State-held northern city of Mosul.

According to Interior Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Saad Maan, six suicide bombers tried to sneak into Karbala from its western outskirts earlier in the day but security forces detected and killed five of them.

The sixth attacker broke into a house in the city's Ayn al-Tamer neighborhood, where he detonated his suicide vest, killing six people and wounding another six.

The attack came as hundreds of thousands of faithful Shiites have been walking to Karbala to commemorate the 7th-century death of Imam Hussein, Prophet Muhammad's grandson and an iconic Shiite martyr. The city, where Imam Hussein and his brother are buried, is some 55 miles south of Baghdad. On Sunday, pilgrims are expected to converge on the city for the climax of a 40-day mourning period, known

as al-Arbæen.

In an online statement, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it targeted "polytheists... in filthy Karbala." It put the number of the suicide bombers at five, saying they clashed for hours with the security forces and set off their explosives consecutively when they ran out of ammunition.

The militants often exaggerate their claims. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the statement, but it was posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremist group.

Like other Sunni extremist groups, the Islamic State considers the Shiites heretics and frequently has targeted Shiite civilians and places of worship.

"We are walking all these long distances; we are not afraid of terrorists; we are not afraid of Daesh," said pilgrim Sattar Hussein, 56, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. "We are not afraid of anyone who defames Islam. And especially those who are targeting the al-Arbæen."

Wearing black, traditional, Arab dress, Hussein was among hundreds of pilgrims leaving Baghdad on foot to head to

Karbala under tight security measures. Some of the marchers were carrying religious flags, including some with a portrait depicting Imam Hussein, as security forces set up checkpoints to search them.

In southern Iraq's Shiite heartland, Karbala is far from Mosul, where a massive Iraqi military operation — launched last month and backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes and paramilitary militias — is underway to free the city, Iraq's second-largest, from Islamic State control.

On Sunday, a wave of attacks in and around Baghdad killed at least 23 people and wounded 70 others. Many of the assaults targeted Shiite pilgrims walking toward Karbala.

Pentagon identifies American soldiers killed at Bagram

By PHILIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Pentagon has identified two American soldiers killed in Sunday's attack by a suspected Taliban suicide bomber on the largest U.S. military base in Afghanistan.

Sgt. John W. Perry, 30, of Stockton, Calif., and Pfc. Tyler R. Lubelt, 20, of Tamaroa, Ill., died of injuries sustained from the explosion at Bagram Air Field, the Defense Department said in a statement Monday.

The soldiers were assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. They were participating in Operation Freedom's Sentinel, a U.S. training-and-counterterrorism mission.

Two American contractors also were killed in the blast. Sixteen other American servicemembers and one Polish soldier were wounded. Twelve of those wounded have been flown to Landstuhl, Germany, where NATO said they are "receiving the best care possible."

Lubelt graduated high school last year and had been in Afghanistan only a few months, KFCS-TV in Cape Girardeau, Mo., reported.

"No one could have believed it in such a small community that something like that would happen," Matthew Doerflein, a friend of Lubelt's, told KFCS-TV. "You just don't expect something like

that to affect such a small community and small town."

The attack, which occurred at the beginning of a Veterans Day 5K race on Saturday morning, was the first suicide bombing inside Bagram Air Field, some 35 miles north of Kabul, since American forces started operating there in 2001.

An investigation has been launched to determine how the attacker managed to bring explosives onto the base, which is one of the most heavily guarded facilities in the country.

NATO, which heads the Resolute Support train-and-advise mission, would not specify the security measures in place at Bagram, but Afghans who visit and work at its headquarters in Kabul are required to have full-body X-rays and biometric scans before entering.

"We have implemented additional security measures in response to (Saturday's) attack," NATO said in a statement.

Servicemembers and contractors living on the base described a "somber mood" during the weekend. Residents were said to be traveling in pairs and had been asked to wear protective equipment such as body armor and helmets at most times.

The Taliban claimed that one of their insurgents who worked at the airfield had blown himself up. It took him four months to plan the attack, the group said in a statement.

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Russian jet from carrier crashes near Syria's shores

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian military says one of its fighter jets based on an aircraft carrier currently near Syria's shores has crashed on a training mission but its pilot survived.

The Defense Ministry said Monday that the crash of the MIG-29 fighter will not affect the operations of the Admiral Kuznetsov carrier.

It said the jet's pilot bailed out

safely and was picked up by a rescue team.

The ministry said the jet crashed due to a technical problem while on its way to land on the carrier but didn't elaborate on what went wrong.

The carrier and escorting ships arrived in the eastern Mediterranean Sea last week. Pilots of the carrier-borne fighters have been conducting flights over Syria to survey the area.

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NATION



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Protesters hold banners in opposition to President-elect Donald Trump during a rally Sunday outside the CNN studios in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Anti-Trump protests continue in NY, LA

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Immigrants, their advocates and others opposing a Donald Trump presidency continued to protest Sunday, speaking out against the president-elect's support of deportation and other measures.

Organizers in Manhattan carried signs in English and Spanish saying things like, "Hate won't make us great," and chanted, "We are here to stay."

More than 1,000 people joined the march that started in mid-afternoon and extended into the evening.

It was the latest in days of demonstrations across the country, and even throughout the world.

Protests were held Sunday in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Philadelphia and more cities.

Several hundred protesters Sunday marched around Philadelphia's City Hall and then down Market Street to Independence Mall, carrying signs and chanting "Donald Trump has got to go!" and "This is what democracy looks like."

In Los Angeles, a few hundred people gathered outside CNN's Los Angeles headquarters, and in San Francisco, hundreds of people, including many families with children, marched from Golden Gate Park to Ocean Beach chanting "Love Trumps Hate!"

Congress faces to-do list for lame-duck session

By Andrew Taylor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress still has some unfinished business before closing shop for the year, even as the focus shifts to the agenda of President-elect Donald Trump and unified Republican control of Congress and the White House in 2017.

Trump's election will reset the balance of power in Washington, but until noon on Jan. 20, President Barack Obama decides what can become law. Already, Obama priorities such as a controversial trade deal with Pacific nations and the long-stalled nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court are off the table. The election results were the final nails in the coffin.

But other fights, such as a GOP revolt over a move by Obama to improve workplace protections for gay and transgender employees of defense contractors — which has stalled the annual Pentagon policy measure — may be defused until next year. And working with Obama to wrap up more than \$1 trillion worth of remaining agency budget bills seems likely to slip.

Here are the highlights of the

agenda of the lame-duck Congress which returns on Monday:

■ **Spending:** Chronic dysfunction has enveloped the once-vibrant process of passing 12 annual agency spending bills.

The government is currently functioning under a stopgap spending bill that expires Dec. 9. Something has to pass by then or else the government will shut down.

■ **Defense:** Congress has passed a defense policy bill every year for more than five decades and lawmakers in both parties want to keep the streak alive.

But a key sticking point in deliberations over the must-pass \$602 billion defense policy bill is a provision Obama and Senate Democrats say would undercut protections against workplace discrimination based on sexual or gender orientation.

■ **Iran sanctions:** The clock is ticking for Congress to renew a decades-old law that allows the United States to hit companies with economic sanctions for doing business with Iran. The law is to expire at the end of the year and there is strong bipartisan support for legislation that would extend it by another decade. It's on the House schedule this week.

Trump names senior aides who are a sharp contrast

By Jonathan Lemire and Laurie Kellman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With his first two key personnel appointments, President-elect Donald Trump made an overture to Republican circles by naming GOP chief Reince Priebus as his White House chief of staff and fired a shot across the Washington establishment's bow by tapping Breitbart News executive Stephen Bannon as chief strategist and senior counselor.

The two men had made up the president-elect's chief of staff short list, and while Priebus received that job, Bannon's post also is expected to wield significant clout. The media executive with ties to the alt-right and white nationalist movement was given top billing in the news release announcing their appointments.

Trump's hires were, at first glance, contradictory, though they fit a pattern of the celebrity businessman creating a veritable Rorschach test that allowed his supporters to see what they wanted. Priebus, who lashed the RNC to Trump this summer despite some intra-party objections, is a GOP operative with deep expertise of the Washington establishment that Trump has vowed to shake up. He has close ties to House Speaker Paul Ryan, a fellow Wisconsinite.

"I am very grateful to the president-elect for this opportunity to serve him and this nation as we work to create an economy that works for everyone, secure our borders, repeal and replace

Obamacare and destroy radical Islamic terrorism," Priebus said in a statement.

Bannon, meanwhile, helped transform the Breitbart News site into the leading mouthpiece of the party's anti-establishment wing, which helped fuel the businessman's political rise. Ryan has been one of his most frequent targets.

"Steve and Reince are highly qualified leaders who worked well together on our campaign and led us to a historic victory," Trump said Sunday in a statement announcing his picks. "Now I will have them both with me in the White House as we work to make America great again."

Neither Priebus nor Bannon brings policy experience to the White House. The chief of staff in particular plays a significant role in policymaking, serving as a liaison to Cabinet agencies and deciding what information makes it to the president's desk. The official is often one of the last people in the room with the president as major decisions are made.

In announcing the appointments, Trump said Priebus and Bannon would work as "equal partners" — effectively creating two power centers in the West Wing. The arrangement is risky and could leave ambiguity over who makes final decisions.

Trump has long encouraged rivalries, both in business and in his presidential campaign. He cycled through three campaign managers during his White House run, creating a web of competing alliances among staffers.

Priebus is a traditional choice, one meant as an olive branch to

the Republicans who control both houses of Congress as Trump looks to pass his legislative agenda.

The Bannon pick, however, is anything but uncontroversial.

Under Bannon's tenure, Breitbart pushed a nationalist agenda and became one of the leading outlets of the so-called alt-right — a movement often associated with white supremacist ideas that oppose multiculturalism and defend "Western values."

John Weaver, a Republican strategist who worked for Ohio Gov. John Kasich's presidential campaign, tweeted, "The racist, fascist extreme right is represented footsteps from the Oval Office. Be very vigilant, America."

Bannon, who became campaign CEO in August, pushed Trump to adopt more populist rhetoric and to paint rival Hillary Clinton as part of a global conspiracy made up of the political, financial and media elite, bankers bent on oppressing the country's working people — a message that carried Trump to the White House but to some, carried anti-Semitic undertones.

An ex-wife of Bannon said he expressed fear of Jews when the two battled over sending their daughters to private school nearly a decade ago, according to court papers reviewed this summer by The Associated Press. In a sworn court declaration following their divorce, Mary Louise Piccard said her ex-husband had objected to sending their twin daughters to an elite Los Angeles academy because he "didn't want the girls going to school with Jews."

A spokeswoman for Bannon denied he made those statements.

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NATION



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., has emerged as a serious contender to become chair of the Democratic National Committee.

Democrats start looking to future after election loss

By LISA LERER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Still reeling from a devastating defeat in last week's election, Democrats are beginning the process of charting the direction of their party in the Donald Trump era.

Liberal politicians have begun jockeying for control of the party. They're pushing for a serious shift in the party's policy positions, financial resources and grassroots organizing to focus more on revitalizing their base and winning back the white working class voters who went for Trump.

"We have to do a lot of rethinking," said Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"Democrats are focused too much with a liberal elite, which is raising incredible sums of money from wealthy people," Sanders said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

The Democratic National Committee is quickly emerging as ground zero for the fight.

After losing the White House and Congress, the Democrats' new chief likely will be one of the party's most visible faces in politics.

Already, around a dozen Democrats' names have been floated to succeed interim chairwoman Donna Brazile, who replaced Florida Rep. Debbie Wasserman

Schultz in July after she was caught up in a hacking scandal.

Minnesota Rep. Keith Ellison, a progressive and the first Muslim elected to Congress, has emerged as an early contender, backed by much of the party's liberal wing.

He's also picked up support from several key Democratic leaders, including outgoing Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid and Reid's likely replacement, New York Sen. Chuck Schumer. Ellison was expected to officially announce his bid on Monday.

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean announced his intention Thursday to reclaim a post he held during the Bush administration. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, DNC National Finance Chairman Henry Munoz Jr. and South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Jaime Harrison are also said considering bids.

Others are pushing for a Latino leader, arguing that the growing demographic group is crucial to the party's future and should be represented at the highest levels of its leadership. Outgoing Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, Arizona Rep. Ruben Gallego and California Rep. Xavier Becerra are said to be weighing a bid. Jason Kander, an Army veteran who lost the Senate race in Missouri to Roy Blunt on Tuesday, is also said to be considering a run.

Obama confronts refugee crisis on final Europe trip

By JULIET EILPERIN
AND ANTHONY FAOLA
The Washington Post

When President Barack Obama arrives Tuesday in Europe, he will touch down in a country at the center of the continent's refugee crisis — Greece — before journeying to one that has helped guide the continent's response — Germany.

The juxtaposition of the two countries underscores the balance Obama hopes to strike on his last trip to Europe as president. While he plans to buttress Greek efforts to cope with migrants fleeing the battlefields of the Middle East, he must contend with other European Union members' desire to keep more refugees out.

"That task became more complicated after Donald Trump won the White House, in part by campaigning to severely restrict asylum-seekers from entering the United States.

The trip to Greece is about trying to address not just the refugee crisis, but to speak to the broader challenges Europe faces moving forward and to recognize that Greece is a front-line state when it comes to both irregular migration and economic recovery," said Charles Kupchan, the National Security Council's former senior director for European affairs.

In Greece, the primary entry point for Middle Eastern migrants, roughly 50,000 asylum-seekers remain corralled in refugee camps and United Nations-sponsored accommodations, most of them waiting for EU countries to make good on pledges to resettle tens of thousands of refugees in countries across the wealthy bloc. Germany, meanwhile, was the destination of choice for the majority of arriving asylum-seekers, and it is still dealing with a backlog of applications for sanctuary.

Greek Migration Minister Ioannis Mouzalas said his country expects Obama to emphasize "how important it is to manage the crisis and not close your eyes to such a crisis" during his stops in Athens and Berlin this week.

In Athens, the president will use the city's history to talk about

the importance of European unity, but it is unclear how his message will resonate at home after an election that suggests Americans are prepared to turn inward. Obama also will advocate additional debt relief for Greece, even as he prods Prime

Charles Kupchan

National Security Council's former senior director for European affairs

Minister Alexis Tsipras to undertake more institutional reforms. But George Papaconstantinou, who served as Greece's finance minister between October 2009 and June 2011, said that with just two months left in office, Obama's words will have limited influence, especially given Trump's victory.

A fragile EU deal with Turkey and moves by Balkan nations to seal their borders to migrants has reduced last year's flood of arrivals to a steady trickle. The number of migrants arriving in Greece each day has fallen from an aver-

age of 7,000 a day in October 2015 to 100 now. But the region is still coping with major fallout.

The continent remains divided on how to deal with the asylum-seekers, and some national leaders are arguing Europe should turn away most of them. Merkel, who welcomed refugees to Germany, has faced steep political losses and a growing public backlash.

The rhetoric in Europe today echoes the debate over immigration in the United States, with opponents decrying cultural invasion and security risks.

According to a recent report from Amnesty International, many migrants trapped in Greece are living in appalling conditions in overcrowded camps. A further 16,000 people are stuck on Greek islands in severely overcrowded camps.

One of the biggest problems is roughly 2,500 unaccompanied minors, some of whom are initially kept in detention by Greek authorities.

Mouzalas said the conditions in the centers "are not very good, but we make them better every day." He noted that 400 of the unaccompanied minors have the right to be reunified with family members elsewhere in Europe but those countries have accepted only 90 of them.

Karl Kopp, spokesman for the Germany-based refugee activist group Pro Asyl, said he hoped Obama would focus on the plight of migrants as a counterpoint to rising right-wing sentiment against them. He added that Obama needed to offer a pledge that the U.S. will take in more refugees — but he recognized the limits on an outgoing president.

"Obama won't be able to write the check he would like to write, because he won't be in power for much longer," Kopp said.

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NATION

Millions could lose Medicaid under Trump plan

By PHIL GALEWITZ
Kaiser Health News

Millions of low-income Americans on Medicaid could lose their health coverage if President-elect Donald Trump and a Republican-controlled Congress follow through on GOP proposals to cut spending in the state-federal insurance program.

The biggest risk for Medicaid beneficiaries comes from pledges by Trump and other Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which provided federal funding to states to expand Medicaid eligibility starting in 2014. Thirty-one states and the District of Columbia did so, adding 15.7 million people to the program, according to the government. About 73 million are now enrolled in Medicaid — about half are children.

Reducing the number of people in Medicaid while ensuring that only the neediest — such as children and pregnant women — remain eligible will be a goal for Trump and the new Congress, said Brian Blase, senior research fellow at the conservative Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Virginia.

"If we do not have fewer people in Medicaid in four years, then we have not reformed health policy in a good direction," he said.

But there are obstacles to the Republicans' plans. Medicaid, one of President Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" domestic programs that was created in 1965, is the nation's main health insurance program for low-income people.

Overhauling it is politically difficult because of the potential harm to recipients as well as the financial consequences to states, hospitals, doctors and other health care providers, who might not get paid for their services if patients don't have coverage. Total Medicaid spending was \$532 billion in fiscal 2015, with about 62 percent funded by the federal government.

One major change endorsed by both Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., would transform Medicaid from an entitlement program into a block grant program.

Here's the difference. In an entitlement program, coverage is guaranteed for everyone who's eligible. The federal government's commitment to help states cover costs is open-ended. The states' obligation is to cover certain groups of people and to provide specific benefits. Children and pregnant women who meet specific income criteria must be covered, for example.

That formula would change if federal funds flow to states through block grants. States would have more flexibility to run their Medicaid programs as they wish — including cutting benefits and eligibility. And opponents say it would allow the federal government to spend less on Medicaid and to make states responsible for covering costs beyond their federal allotments.

Turning Medicaid into a block grant program has been discussed for more than 25 years,

but the idea has always met resistance from some states, health care providers, health care advocates and Democrats. Even with a Republican majority in Congress and Trump in the White House, the plan would still face an uphill legislative battle.

The federal government rarely shifts power to the states and not all states want to be at increased financial risk for the program.

"Medicaid block grants face a very uncertain future," said Joel Cantor, director of the Center for State Health Policy at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Another option to redefine Medicaid funding, similar to a block grant, is known as a per capita cap. States would be given a set amount of money per enrollee, which would increase each year

but critics fear likely would not keep up with rising health care expenses. That method would help states better deal with growing enrollment because funding would rise too.

Even without help from Congress, Trump's administration could change Medicaid using the executive branch's power to approve states' requests for waivers from federal rules. That could allow Trump to approve changes proposed by Republican governors that the Obama administration has rejected, including work requirements for Medicaid enrollees and monthly premiums and other cost-sharing.

Trump also could end some waivers that expanded Medicaid and sent billions of dollars in new federal funding to some states

that transformed care.

Any congressional changes to Medicaid next year likely would include negotiations about the Children's Health Insurance Program, another federal-state program that provides coverage to youngsters whose families are slightly over the Medicaid eligibility. The program expires if not reauthorized by Sept. 30, 2017. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, about 8 million children get coverage through CHIP, which has had Republican and Democratic support.

After Trump is in office, he may find it's harder than he realized to repeal Obamacare and tinker with Medicaid because cutting off coverage for millions of people could bring plenty of political fallout, said Joan Alker, ex-

ecutive director of the Center for Children and Families at Georgetown University.

Republican Gov. Matt Bevin, of Kentucky, took a similar tack last year, she observed, running against Obamacare and vowing in his campaign to eliminate the expansion. He has since proposed major changes to Medicaid, but he has not yet moved to kill the expansion.

Still, Alker said Trump's win puts the block grant idea front and center in January. And an agreement to do it could give states flexibility to make cuts in federally required benefits, such as health screenings for infants and children.

"I would be very concerned about what could happen," Alker said.



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NATION

Supermoon lights up night

By Marcia Dunn
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The moon doesn't get much bigger and brighter than this.

On Monday, Earthlings were treated to a so-called supermoon — the closest full moon of the year.

Monday's supermoon was expected to be extra super — it's the closest the moon comes to us in almost 69 years. And it won't happen again for another 18 years.

NASA said the closest approach was to occur at 6:21 a.m. EST when the moon was to come within 221,523 miles. That's from the center of the Earth to the center of the moon.

NASA planetary geologist Noah Petro urged everyone to step outside and soak in the view. At the time of closest approach, the moon will be setting and the sun rising, at least on the U.S. East Coast.

"Ultimately, people should be more geared toward just getting outside and enjoying it," Petro said.

Supermoons can appear 14 percent bigger and 30 percent brighter in the night sky. But it takes a real expert to notice the difference.



TOM FOX, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

The moon rises behind Reunion Tower in downtown Dallas on Sunday.

Petro, deputy project scientist for the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter circling the moon, said that even he won't be able to see much difference in size and luminosity. What counts, he said, is getting people "talking, thinking and caring about the moon."

Weather permitting, it's a sky show the entire planet can enjoy. "Everyone gets to see the moon," Petro said. "It's a

great shared resource for all humanity."

The last time the moon was so close — actually, 29 miles closer — was in January 1948. That's the same year the Cleveland Indians last won the World Series, Petro noted, "a big year," at least there.

In 2034, the moon will come even closer, within 221,485 miles. That, too, will be a supermoon.



DAVID CARSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

The moon rises over the Arch in St. Louis, as seen from the Compton Hill Water Tower, on Sunday.

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WORLD

NATO seeks to prove worth amid Trump's 'America first'

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Europe's top security officials are scrambling to make the case that NATO is more than a system for fleecing American taxpayers even as President-elect Donald Trump is insisting that "America first" will be the guiding principle of his foreign policy.

NATO's top official took the highly unusual step over the weekend of issuing an indirect warning to Trump, saying that any retreat from NATO would upend a nearly 70-year security pact that has helped keep the peace in Europe.

"Going it alone is not an option, either for Europe or for the United States," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg wrote in a commentary Saturday in *The Guardian* newspaper.

During the campaign, Trump repeatedly questioned the value of the alliance and the cost of America's continued participation.

Although the U.S. gross domestic product and the combined GDPs of NATO's other 27 members are nearly equal, America's defense spending accounts for more than two-thirds of the alliance's total military expenditures. During the campaign Trump warned the alliance that such a discrepancy was unsustainable and that those allies who did not "reimburse" the

United States would not be able to count on America's military help in the future.

"When I look at the world and you look at how various places are taking advantage of our country, and I say it, and I say it very proudly, it's going to be America first," Trump said on "60 Minutes" in his first interview since the election.

With Trump's overtures to Russian President Vladimir Putin, with whom Trump has said he hopes to improve relations, some allies have expressed concern that the U.S. will shift away from deterrence measures in the Baltics and Poland that have infuriated Moscow.

Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine prompted a sweeping reappraisal by the U.S. regarding the security situation in Europe. After years of military downsizing in Europe, the Pentagon has moved more rotational troops, tanks and artillery to the Continent, and top U.S. military commanders have called Russia the top security concern.

NATO has embarked on its largest reinforcement of Europe since the end of the Cold War, energizing an alliance that only three years ago was struggling to find a raison d'être. Trump's rise appears to have the trans-Atlantic alliance again on its heels, having to prove its relevance to a skepti-

cal U.S. president.

"We face the greatest challenges to our security in a generation. This is no time to question the value of the partnership between Europe and the United States," Stoltenberg said.

In his commentary, Stoltenberg offered an inventory of how NATO has helped secure U.S. and European security interests over the decades, citing European support for the war in Afghanistan. He also touted more recent efforts by allies to improve their state of military readiness, such as plans for multinational NATO battalions in the Baltics and Poland.

He went on to acknowledge underinvestment in defense by allies over the years and recent steps to reverse that trend.

"The partnership between Europe and America is founded on deeply shared interests and common values. At the same time, a viable partnership depends on all contributing their fair share," Stoltenberg said.

He noted that the U.S. accounts for almost 70 percent of NATO defense spending and that the U.S. has "rightly called for a more equitable sharing of the burden."

In 2014, NATO allies pledged to boost spending to 2 percent of GDP within a decade. Since then, they have gradually upped invest-



NATHANIEL ALLEN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A German army soldier provides security while conducting a patrol during Swift Response 16 training exercise at the Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, on June 21. U.S. defense spending accounts for more than two-thirds of NATO's total military expenditures.

ments, and spending is expected to rise for a third consecutive year in Europe.

Stoltenberg's focus on NATO's efforts to increase spending coincides with statements by Germany's leaders, who have talked about Europe playing a greater role in its own defense.

NATO members have acknowledged for years the need to invest more in defense, but such talk has amounted to little more than lip service.

The European Union's foreign ministers assembled in Brussels on Sunday to gauge the ramifications of a Trump presidency on

relations in Europe and to boost European defense cooperation.

Since Trump's election, German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen has said that as Europe's leading power, Germany will need to take on a larger security role, becoming more self-reliant in the wake of an American that is potentially turning inward.

"Europe needs common political will for more security policy relevance. The outcome of the election in America could provide an additional impetus," von der Leyen said in a commentary in the *Rheinische Post*.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

EU ministers back Iran deal

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Top European Union diplomats are calling for more robust European defense and a greater European voice in world affairs as Donald Trump — whose isolationist, protectionist promises have worried many in Europe — prepares to assume the U.S. presidency.

With many question marks around Trump's foreign policy plans, EU foreign ministers agreed Monday at talks in Brussels on the need to strengthen Europe's role in world affairs until the future of trans-Atlantic relations becomes clearer.

In a first move Monday, the ministers reaffirmed their support for the Iran nuclear agreement, which Trump has branded the "worst deal in the world" and vowed to renegotiate.

While campaigning, Trump called the pact agreed last year a "lopsided disgrace" and railed against its time-limited restrictions on Iran's enrichment of uranium and other nuclear activity. Trump's exact plans are vague though, and renegotiating a deal Iran and other partners are happy with would be difficult.

Perhaps Europe's most pressing problem is to understand how Trump wants to deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The EU has imposed sanctions on Russia over its



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, center, speaks with Belgian Foreign Minister Didier Reynders, right, and Finnish Foreign Minister Timo Juhanen Soini during a meeting at the European Union Council building in Brussels on Monday.

2014 annexation of Crimea and destabilizing role elsewhere in Ukraine. Any signal from Trump about a warming of U.S. relations with Russia is likely to embolden already reluctant countries like Germany, Italy and others to push for an end to the sanctions regime.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson insisted Monday that Trump's presidency could be a "moment of opportunity" for Europe.

Johnson said Trump "is a dealmaker, and I think that could be a good thing for Britain, but it can also be a good thing for Europe. I think that's what we need to focus on today."

German foreign minister tapped as next president

By FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's foreign minister, who once referred to Donald Trump as a "hate preacher," was tapped Monday to become his country's next president.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier would take over the largely ceremonial role as head of state from Joachim Gauck, whose five-year term ends in February.

German news agency dpa reported Monday that Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Union bloc would back Steinmeier's nomination for the post.

Together with the votes of Steinmeier's own center-left Social Democratic Party, the 60-year-old political veteran would likely have enough support to win a vote among the 1,260 delegates who elect Germany's next president on Feb. 12.

Social Democratic Party leader Sigmar Gabriel told reporters



Steinmeier

Monday that Steinmeier had earned widespread respect and the necessary trust required to fill the post.

Steinmeier is regularly ranked among Germany's most popular politicians.

While normally studiously diplomatic, Steinmeier strongly criticized Trump during the American election campaign.

Following Trump's election, Steinmeier said the Republican's victory meant "nothing is going to get easier. A lot will get harder."

He said Germany would seek dialogue with the Trump administration, but warned that American foreign policy would likely become "less predictable."

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WORLD

New Zealand to rescue quake-stranded tourists

By NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand is planning to send in military helicopters and a navy ship to rescue about 1,000 tourists and hundreds of residents who remain stranded in the coastal town of Kaikoura after a powerful earthquake on Monday cut off train and vehicle access.

The magnitude-7.8 quake struck the South Island just after midnight. It left two people dead and triggered a small tsunami. It also brought down rocks and mud that swept across highways and cracked apart roads.

Home to about 2,000 residents, Kaikoura is a popular destination for travelers taking part in whale-watching expeditions or wanting a stopover with mountain views. But the quake knocked out water supplies and sewer systems and left people with no easy way out. "From all directions, Kaikoura has essentially been isolated,"

Air Commodore Darryn Webb, the acting commander of New Zealand's Joint Forces, told The Associated Press. "There's a real imperative to support the town because it can't support itself."

Webb said the military planned to begin using four NH90 helicopters on Tuesday that could each transport about 18 people out of the town at a time. He said a ship was also leaving Auckland on Monday night that potentially could pick up hundreds of people if weather conditions allowed.

"We're going to get as many people and belongings out as quickly as we can," Webb said.

He said the weather forecast wasn't looking great and the operation could take several days. He said that if needed, a C-130 military transport plane could drop fuel, water, food and other supplies onto the town.

Elsewhere, strong aftershocks continued to shake New Zealand on Monday, rattling the nerves of exhausted residents.



NEWSHUB/AP

In this image made from video, three cows are stranded Monday on an island of grass in a paddock that had been ripped apart following an earthquake near Kaikoura, New Zealand.

Nowhere to mooove: Temblor strands 3 cows

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Three New Zealand cows looked like they could use a little help Monday after an earthquake triggered landslides all around them and left them stranded on a small island of grass.

Video taken by NewsHub news service from a helicopter near the small town of Kaikoura shows two adult cattle and a calf stuck on a chunk of land in a paddock that had been ripped apart in Monday's magnitude-7.8 quake. The

patch of grass was surrounded by deep ravines of collapsed earth, trapping the animals where they stood.

It was not immediately clear who owned the cattle or what was being done to help them.

Kaikoura is close to the epicenter of the overnight earthquake, and where one of the two confirmed deaths occurred. The quake was strongly felt to the south in Christchurch but was far less damaging than a smaller 2011 earthquake that devastated the city and killed 185 people.

From The Associated Press



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Swedish Chief Prosecutor Ingrid Isgren is surrounded by journalists Monday as she arrives at the Ecuadorian Embassy to interview WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in London. Assange was questioned by prosecutors about allegations concerning possible sex crimes committed in Sweden six years ago.

Officials question Assange over sex crime allegations

By GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was being questioned by prosecutors Monday at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London about possible sexual misconduct committed in Sweden six years ago.

Assange was being interviewed at the embassy where he sought refuge more than four years ago. The questioning was being led by an Ecuadorian prosecutor in the presence of Swedish prosecutor Ingrid Isgren and a Swedish police investigator.

Prosecutors planned to ask Assange to consent to providing a DNA sample.

Swedish officials are seeking information related to allegations of serious misconduct made by two Swedish women he met in 2010. Some of the alleged misconduct is no longer being investigated by police because of the statute of limitations.

He is, however, being questioned about a possible rape of one of the

women who complained to authorities. He has not been indicted.

Prosecutors say no immediate decision on the future of Assange's case will be made on Monday. They also said no public statements will be made after the questioning, which may last several days.

Assange's Swedish defense lawyer, Per Samuelsson, told Swedish media he has "high hopes" the case will be closed once prosecutors have completed the interview. He complained that he has been barred from the hearing, despite arguing that Assange's Swedish lawyer must be permitted to take part.

"I'm not on the list of persons that Ecuador has drawn up and allowed to be present," Samuelsson told the Swedish national broadcaster SVT. "An Ecuadorian lawyer has taken up this question as a formal issue in the introduction of the hearing."

Civil rights activist Peter Tatchell said outside the embassy that he and others had gathered to show "solidarity" with Assange

and WikiLeaks. He said Assange was being "hounded" because of WikiLeaks' work in shedding light on the "terrible things" done by the U.S. government and others.

Some supporters hoisted pro-Assange banners outside the embassy.

Assange has denied sexual wrongdoing and has said he fears being extradited to the U.S. because of his WikiLeaks work. It isn't known if he faces a secret grand jury indictment in the U.S.

The sex crime allegations were made shortly after Assange and WikiLeaks became well known worldwide for releasing hundreds of thousands of pages of classified U.S. government documents.

One Swedish woman said Assange intentionally damaged a condom and pinned her down while having sex. A second woman said Assange had sex with her without a condom while she was asleep. In Sweden, having sex with an unconscious, drunken or sleeping person can lead to a rape conviction punishable by up to six years in prison.

Pro-Russia politician gets clear win in Moldovan presidential election

By CORNELIU RUSNAC
Associated Press



Dodon

CHISINAU, Moldova — A pro-Russia politician has secured a clear win in a presidential race that many Moldovans hope will rekindle ties with Moscow, final results showed Monday.

In the full count, Igor Dodon won 52.2 percent of the vote. Maia Sandu, who ran on an anti-corruption ticket, had 47.8 percent.

Later Monday, up to 1,000 mostly young Moldovans marched to the offices of the Central Election

Committee in Chisinau, shouting, "Down with the Mafia!"

Anger also flared on Sunday after Moldovans voting in Britain, Ireland, France and elsewhere lined up for hours and ballot papers ran out. Sandu said the elections had been badly organized.

Dodon's victory was celebrated with fireworks early Monday in the semi-autonomous Gagauzia region, home of many ethnic Russians.

The Socialists' Party leader promised to be a proponent of Moldova's said he seeks good relations with neighbors Romania and Ukraine.

Moldova's president represents the country abroad, sets foreign policy and appoints judges but needs parliamentary approval for major decisions. However, the office was expected to gain authority because Dodon was the first president in 20 years to be directly elected rather than being chosen by Parliament.

Dodon, 41, who painted himself as a traditional Moldovan with conservative values, tapped into popular anger over the approximately \$1 billion that went missing from Moldovan banks before the 2014 parliamentary elections.

WORLD

Chinese companies advised to wait on US deals

BY ALEX SHERMAN
AND JONATHAN BROWNE
Bloomberg

Chinese buyers keen to continue 2016's rapid dealmaking under a Donald Trump presidency are being given one piece of advice: Wait and see.

Bankers and lawyers are already counseling some Chinese clients to hit the pause button until Trump clarifies his stance on cross-border deals for U.S. targets, according to three advisers to Chinese clients.

Acquisitive Chinese companies have led a blockbuster year of dealmaking in 2016, accounting for about \$225 billion of overseas purchases this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That's more than triple the level of the same period a year earlier—and the biggest chunk of the money has been spent in the U.S. If Trump follows through on his campaign rhetoric, however, their enthusiasm could be short-lived.

"There's at least a short-term pause," said Annabella Fu van Bijnen, a partner at law firm Linklaters in Hong Kong. "Given the

way Trump has run his campaign, there's not a lot of policy clarity. Investors might be a bit more cautious given the protectionist sentiments that were expressed."

One of the hallmarks of Trump's presidential campaign was an insistence that China has taken advantage of the U.S. on trade deals. The president-elect has pledged to label Beijing a currency manipulator. He's also vowed to tempt corporate taxes in an effort to lure companies to stay in, or return to, the U.S.

Some of the biggest effects could be seen in the technology and entertainment industries, where Chinese buyers have been particularly active. Just this month, billionaire Wang Jianlin's Dalian Wanda Group Co. agreed to pay \$1 billion to acquire Dick Clark Productions Inc., the television studio behind the Golden Globe awards and Miss America beauty pageant.

The deal followed Wanda's \$3.5 billion purchase earlier this year of Legendary Entertainment, the Hollywood production house that worked on the "Dark Knight" Batman trilogy.

Trump's administration could also bring changes to the way U.S. regulators treat deals. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., the body tasked with reviewing acquisitions of companies that could have implications for national security, is chaired by the Treasury secretary.

China's interest in U.S. companies spiked earlier this year as the world's second-largest economy searched for growth outside its borders.

Through June, buyers from the country accounted for about 24 percent of total deal volumes, Gregg Lemkau, Goldman Sachs' global co-head of mergers and acquisitions, said at the time. That's an increase of about 10 percent, he said.

Despite the increase in activity, dealmaking under the Obama administration hasn't always been easy.

Chinese deal flow for U.S. technology companies has already slowed in recent months after several acquisitions failed to make it through regulatory processes.

In January, Dutch company Royal Phil-

lips NV said it was canceling the sale of its lighting-components business to a Chinese-led consortium due to CFIUS concerns. Fairchild Semiconductor International Inc. also passed up a higher offer from a Chinese group on the grounds it might not get a U.S. security nod, opting instead for a bid from domestic suitor ON Semiconductor Corp.

Despite the slowdown, other sectors continue to generate interest. China Oceanwide Holdings Group agreed to acquire Richmond, Va.-based insurer Genworth Financial last month for \$2.7 billion. Still, investors have already shown skepticism that regulators will allow the deal, pushing Genworth's shares more than 20 percent below its acquisition offer price.

Not all deal advisers are certain there will be a slowdown, particularly in industries that the Chinese government has earmarked for investment. Semiconductor deals, for example, have been booming, in part due to a national Chinese mandate to invest more than \$100 billion to become a leading player in the chip industry.

2016 set to break heat record despite emissions slowdown

BY KARL RITTER
Associated Press

MARRAKECH, Morocco — Global temperatures are soaring toward a record high this year, the U.N. weather agency said Monday, while another report showed emissions of a key global warming gas have flattened out in the past three years.

The reports injected a mix of gloom and hope at U.N. climate talks in Marrakech this week.

"Another year. Another record. The high temperatures we saw in 2015 are set to be beaten in 2016," said Petteri Taalas, the head of the World Meteorological Organization.

The WMO's preliminary data through October showed world temperatures, boosted by the El Niño phenomenon, are 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit above pre-industrial levels.

That's getting close to the limit set by the global climate agreement adopted in Paris last year. It calls for limiting the temperature rise to 2 degrees C or even 1.5 degrees C.

The WMO said 16 of the 17 hottest years have occurred this century. The only exception was 1998, which was also an El Niño year.

Another report released Monday delivered some positive news, showing global CO2 emissions have flattened out in the past three years. The study's authors cautioned it's unclear if the slowdown, mainly caused by declining coal use in China, is a permanent trend or a temporary blip.

The study, published in the journal Earth System Science Data, says global CO2 emissions from fossil fuels and industry is projected to grow by just 0.2 percent this year.

That would mean emissions have leveled off at about 36 billion metric tons in the past three years even though the world economy has expanded, suggesting the historical bonds between economic gains and emissions growth may have been severed.

Chinese emissions were down 0.7 percent in 2015 and are projected to fall 0.5 percent in 2016, the researchers said, noting that Chinese energy statistics have been plagued by inconsistencies.

Study co-author Glen Peters said it remains unclear whether the Chinese slowdown was due to a restructuring of the economy or a sign of economic instability, but the unexpected reduction in Chinese emissions "give us hope that the world's biggest emitter can deliver much more ambitious emission reductions."

China, which accounts for almost 30 percent of global carbon emissions, pledged to peak its emissions around 2030 as part of the global climate pact adopted in Paris last year.

The election of Donald Trump as president of the United States — the world's No. 2 carbon polluter — could also have an impact.

U.S. emissions fell 2.6 percent last year and are projected to drop 1.7 percent this year, as natural gas and renewables displace coal in power generation, the study showed. But it's unclear if those reductions will continue under Trump, who has pledged to roll back the Obama administration's environmental policies.

Other researchers not affiliated with the study stressed that it's not enough for global emissions to stabilize; they need to drop toward zero for the world to meet the goals of the Paris deal.



Pakistani protesters burn a picture of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. Pakistan claimed Indian troops opened fire across the Line of Control in Kashmir, killing at least seven soldiers.

Pakistan warns of escalation in Kashmir

BY ASIF SHAHZAD
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's military says Indian troops fired on its soldiers in Kashmir on Monday, killing seven of them and prompting return fire, as officials warned that the tense standoff between the nuclear-armed rivals could escalate.

The two sides have traded fire repeatedly in recent weeks across the Line of Control, which divides the Himalayan region into Indian and Pakistani-controlled zones. The two nuclear rivals each claim the entire territory, and have fought two of their three wars over it.

"The international community should pay attention," Pakistani Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif told Geo News TV. "It can escalate. This could be catastrophic for the region."

He added that Pakistani troops had also inflicted losses on the Indian army, without elaborating.

“The international community should pay attention. [The situation in Kashmir] can escalate. This could be catastrophic for the region.”

Khawaja Mohammad Asif
Pakistan's defense minister

An Indian army officer said Pakistan had fired on Indian troops in a breach of the ceasefire, and that they "effectively retaliated." The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters, said there were no casualties on the Indian side.

The latest escalation was set off by a September attack on an Indian military base by Pakistani militants. India blamed the attack on Pakistan, which has denied involvement.

Tensions have run high since Indian troops killed a Kashmiri militant leader in July. The killing

ignited some of the most violent protests in years, and dozens of people have been killed in India's resulting crackdown.

Pakistani foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz said there has been an increase in the duration and frequency of indiscriminate firing by India, which has in recent weeks killed 26 civilians and wounded over 100 in villages near the frontier.

"The Indian actions, which constituted a threat to the maintenance of peace and security, may lead to strategic miscalculation," he said.

MILITARY



Newport News Shipbuilding employee Anthony Diggs works on a flight-deck light aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford in Newport News, Va.

Left: Navy Culinary Spec. Alicia Pitts delivers pizza to the chow line during a tour of the carrier in April.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HELBER/AP



A SMALL CITY

'4.5 acres of sovereign US territory': The Navy's next-generation aircraft

By STEVE McMILLAN,
NATHAN GRIFFITHS
AND STEVE HELBER
Associated Press

THE NAVY REFERS TO ITS next-generation aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, as "4.5 acres of sovereign U.S. territory." The \$12.9 billion warship — the first of the Navy's next generation of aircraft carriers — is in the final stages of construction after cost overruns and a delay of more than one year.

This carrier and those that will follow, including the USS John F. Kennedy and the USS Enterprise, will replace the Nimitz-class carriers, which were first commissioned in 1975. Construction on the Ford started in 2009 and on the Kennedy in 2015. Construction is scheduled to start on the Enterprise in 2018, but that could be pushed back.

The Ford — sitting now at Newport News Shipbuilding, the giant Navy contractor in Virginia — will house about 2,600 sailors, 600 fewer than the Nimitz-class carriers. The Navy said that will save more than \$4 billion over the ship's 50-year lifespan. The air wing to support the Ford could add more personnel to the ship, which is designed to house more than 4,600 crewmembers.

The Navy had hoped to begin testing the Ford's systems and equipment during sea trials this fall. Those tests and a delivery

date have been delayed as work continues on some of the vessel's new technology, such as its power generation system, aircraft landing equipment and advanced weapons elevators.

Construction was supposed to be completed by September 2015, with a cost cap of \$10.5 billion. The Navy has attributed delays and cost overruns to the ship's state-of-the-art systems and technology.

Capt. Richard McCormick took command of the Ford last spring and will be at the helm for sea trials when they are scheduled.

The ship's destination once it's delivered to the Navy? "Bottom line is that when the ship is ready for deployment, we will go where the boss tells us to go," McCormick said.

■ **Technology:** The vessel includes electromagnetic launch systems for jets and drones, replacing steam catapults; a smaller island that sits farther back on the ship, making it easier and quicker to refuel, re-arm and relaunch planes; and a nuclear power plant designed to allow cruising speeds of more than 30 knots and operation for 20 years without refueling.

■ **Captain's cabin:** The in-port cabin reflects the life and career of the ship's namesake, President Gerald R. Ford. Besides living quarters, the cabin serves as a ceremonial receiving location for

'Bottom line is that when the ship is ready for deployment, we will go where the boss tells us to go.'

Capt. Richard McCormick
USS Gerald R. Ford
commander



Navy Fireman David Ortiz, of Los Angeles, works out in a gym aboard the ship.

distinguished guests and as an area for the captain to welcome new sailors aboard. Morning meetings are held in the suite's boardroom.

■ **Anchor room and hangar bay:** The Ford weighs close to 100,000 tons and getting it to rest dead in the water requires some serious stopping power. Hours of planning go into dropping anchor, but when the brake is released and the anchor starts to drop, it happens fast; 90 feet of chain can pay out in 5 seconds.

■ **Daily life:** Below deck on the ship is a maze of steel hatches and heavily plated hallways that descend 11 levels, revealing the workings of a small city — a medical ward, barber shops, fitness centers, living quarters, fire stations and more.

Routine tasks are punctuated aboard the Ford with "general quarter" drills. Sirens blare and sailors scramble to defensive positions, sealing hatches and assembling near repair lockers.



A crewmember looks over maintenance records in the shower area.

SHIFTING GEARS



The 2017 Nissan GT-R features a 3.8-liter V-6 engine and produces 565 horsepower.

NISSAN/TNS

HOOLIGAN HOT ROD

Nissan's latest version of the GT-R a fun, boisterous ride

By CHARLES FLEMING
Los Angeles Times

The 2017 Nissan GT-R is a bad car, for bad people. It's a hooligan ride, for hooligan drivers, good for nothing but scaring the neighbors, driving up insurance rates and attracting the attention of the cops.

But it's so much fun to drive!

Nissan has been building a version of the GT-R since the late 1960s, when it first offered a Japan-only Nissan Skyline GT-R. The current model has been available in the U.S. since 2008.

With each passing year, these brutes get bigger and badder. The 2010 featured a V-6 engine that made 523 horsepower and 451 pound-feet of torque. The 2017 version, a 3.8-liter V-6, produces 565 horsepower and 467 pound-feet of torque.

Everything about the GT-R screams "track day." From the bright red start button (which looks like something you'd use to initiate ignition on a rocket ship) to the race seats (which are actually comfortable for long-distance driving) to the engine sound (which seems more

suited to a jet fighter than a street-legal automobile).

The GT-R is said to get from zero to 60 mph in 3.2 seconds, on its way to a top speed of 195 mph.

Although I did not test those numbers and don't drive that fast, I believe it. Around town, I found the GT-R's acceleration exhilarating. The slight turbo lag resulting from a quick stomp on the pedal is made up for by the neck-snapping jolt that follows. Zero to 60 is abrupt, and 60 to 100 seemed to happen quickly too.

The six-speed transmission, through all-wheel-drive, felt very tractable for such an aggressive monster. The GT-R never felt in danger of losing its grip.

Even in optional "comfort" mode, though, the suspension is stiff, perhaps perfect for the track but not ideal for, say, a slow boulevard cruise.

It's meant to be a daily driver and for some people will be. The climate control system is very efficient — quiet and powerfully cooling even on a scorching day. The sound system is good too, as is the Bluetooth phone pairing.

But this is a race car, not a coffee shop

or a phone booth. So enjoying that sound system, or using the telephone, might be difficult to do over the roar of the engine — quite intoxicating but likely to interrupt communication and inhibit conversation with your passenger, even if the passenger is capable of speaking, given the way you're probably driving this beast.

On the streets, enthusiasts knew at once they were looking at the 2017 version, which features a new front grille, hood, spoiler and bumper. On the inside, they noted the shift paddles are now mounted on the steering wheel.

The trunk design suggests Nissan believes people will be using the GT-R for more than drag racing. The big trunk has room for your golf clubs and even your caddy, or a couple of suitcases. Although it has rear seats, they're probably not going to be useful for carrying people.

I don't know anyone who owns a GT-R, but I've met people who would like to. What would they be cross-shopping, if they were serious about that? Given the specs, the GT-R is competitive with the fastest cars made by Porsche, BMW, Audi and Ferrari. On various tracks, in

2017 Nissan GT-R Premium



Quick take: A bad-mannered hooligan hot rod

Highs: Way too much fun to drive
Lows: Liable to raise blood pressure, insurance rates

Vehicle type: Two-door, four-passenger sedan

Base price: \$111,585

Price as tested: \$112,585

Powertrain: 3.8-liter, twin-turbo, 6-cylinder engine

Transmission: 6-speed automatic

Horsepower: 565

Torque: 467 pound-feet

EPA fuel economy rating: 16 miles per gallon city / 22 mpg highway / 18 mpg combined

TNS

varying tests, GT-Rs have matched or beaten 911s, R8s, M3s and 599s. They've gone up against Corvette Z06s and come out on top.

They're priced accordingly. The GT-R Premium version has a starting MSRP of \$111,585 for a model that comes standard with heated, adjustable, leather seats; Bose sound system; 8-inch color navigation display; and front and rear parking sensors.

If that's not enough, you are free to spend \$176,585 for the "Nismo" version. That one features a 600-horsepower engine and is even more of a hooligan.



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Top officer helps catch carjacking suspects

IL CHICAGO — Chicago's top police officer has helped apprehend three carjacking suspects.

The Chicago Tribune reported police Superintendent Eddie Johnson was on his way Friday to a news briefing when he and other officers saw a car that had been carjacked in suburban Cicero. The officers pursued the speeding vehicle.

The driver crashed the car and fled on foot, and the officers caught up with him and placed him in custody. Two other people inside the car also were arrested.

Police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi told the newspaper that police are investigating whether the incident was related to a recent string of thefts of luxury sports cars taken from the suburbs and used in the city to commit shootings and robberies.

Motorcyclist leads cops on hourlong chase

VA FAIRFAX — Police said a motorcyclist was arrested after leading police on a chase in northern Virginia for more than an hour.

Fairfax County Police said Anders N. Kinsler, 20, of Sterling, was charged with reckless driving and eluding police. He's being held at the Loudoun Adult Detention Center with no bond.

Police said the pursuit began after a patrol officer tried to stop Kinsler on Friday for not having registration displayed on the motorcycle.

Video captured WRC-TV shows police following the motorcyclist as he weaved through rush-hour traffic. Police said he surrendered voluntarily after the more than hour-long pursuit.

Police find man's burning body in alley

MI SOUTHFIELD — A man's body was found burning in an alley north of Detroit.

Police in Southfield said an officer of an adjacent Oakland County community found the body about 1:30 a.m. Saturday after investigating smoke behind a business. The man was near a large metal container, which also was burning.

The man's death is under investigation. He has not been identified.

Woman on probation for staged robbery gets jail

IA SIOUX CITY — A woman on probation for her role in a staged Sioux City bank robbery is now behind bars.

The Sioux City Journal reported that Heaven Zevenberg, 19, of Holstein, was ordered to spend 30 days in jail.

Zevenberg admitted to smoking marijuana in August and quitting her job for two months — both violations of her probation.

Zevenberg and her friend, Angelica Perez, 19, were sentenced in February to five years

THE CENSUS

99

The number of suspected felony crimes for which a San Francisco surgeon was arrested in connection with prescribing opioid narcotics. Christopher Owens, 49, a University of California San Francisco surgeon who works at the university-affiliated Veterans Affairs Medical Center, was arrested Nov. 3. UCSF terminated Owens' physician privileges last week and fired him from the faculty. His bail was set at \$1.98 million.



DIANE BONDAREFF/AP

A tall order

The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree, from Oneonta, N.Y., is put into place Saturday at Rockefeller Plaza in New York. The 84th tree lighting ceremony will take place Nov. 30.

in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree theft but had their sentences suspended in May. Prosecutors said Perez entered the bank in disguise and passed Zevenberg, who was a bank teller, a note demanding cash.

Man flies to get acorns from Jesse Owens tree

OH CLEVELAND — Cleveland school officials said a museum curator recently gathered acorns and buds from an oak tree planted at a Cleveland high school in honor of Olympic hero Jesse Owens. The plan is to grow replica trees at a Southern California botanical garden.

A curator at the Henry E. Huntington Library & Art Galleries in San Marino, Calif., thinks the oak tree planted at Cleveland's Rhodes High School might be one of only three surviving trees from the 20 given to Owens and other U.S. Olympians after the 1936 Summer Games in Berlin.

Owens won four track gold medals in Berlin.

Owens attended East Tech High School in Cleveland but mostly trained at Rhodes High School.

Group hopes to maintain dog chapel

VT ST. JOHNSBURY — A Vermont group is hoping to preserve a chapel and art gallery dedicated to dogs with the help of a \$75,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The group Friends of Dog Mountain is working to transfer the St. Johnsbury property, which features an art gallery and a chapel dedicated to dogs, to nonprofit ownership.

Acting Executive Director Scott Buckingham told the Caledonian Record the grant is "a terrific start-up of funding for our nonprofit and its mission."

Dog Mountain is located on 150 acres in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom that are always open to people and their dogs.

Man, 18, wins election commissioner post

MS HATTIESBURG — An 18-year-old is expected to take office in January as Forrest County's next District 1 election commissioner.

Local media reports that teenager Tyler Wood beat out incum-

ment Charlie Phillips during the Nov. 8 balloting.

Wood, who's a student at Pearl River Community College in Hattiesburg, said he'll be up to the job despite his age. He said it's not about how old you are; it's about having the "integrity, the knowledge and the experience" to do the job.

Wood said he got interested in the job while helping out during Forrest County's recent primaries.

Lawyer pulled from case over Facebook post

MD BALTIMORE — An attorney assigned to represent a correctional officer charged with smuggling drugs into a state prison has been removed from the case after posting about it on Facebook.

The Baltimore Sun reported that U.S. District Judge James K. Bredar ruled that Anton J.S. Keating can no longer represent Jocelyn Byrd of the Eastern Correctional institution.

Keating posted a link to a WBAL-TV story about the case on his personal Facebook page and said he was "back in the saddle again.... need the action and

the fee..."

Bredar said in his order that it was "highly inappropriate" for Keating to imply that he "might be out of practice."

Keating told the newspaper that the judge overreacted.

Distracted sea turtles head away from Gulf

FL PANAMA CITY BEACH — Wildlife officials say about 70 percent of the 3,000 sea turtles that have recently hatched on Panama City Beach are heading in the wrong direction.

PCB Turtle Watch Director Kennard Watson said volunteers have rescued the hatchlings as they crawled toward lights on buildings and the street rather than the Gulf of Mexico.

Watson also told the News Press the news is mixed on Panama City Beach. On one hand, he said there were 51 loggerhead turtle nests this season, which is the most since 1991. But storms flooded or washed away 20 nests.

Watson said officials are encouraging beachfront property owners to use turtle friendly lighting.

From wire reports

FACES

Chappelle makes a return on 'SNL'

Comedian reminds fans why they missed him

By ELAHE IZADI
The Washington Post

Dave Chappelle has still got the juice, and boy, America sure missed him over the past two years.

Chappelle has been one of comedy's most elusive figures ever since he walked away from his wildly popular Comedy Central series in 2005. During two seasons of "Chappelle's Show," the stand-up made a name for himself as a comedic genius unafraid to cull humor from the most tragic aspects of racism in America.

The comic returned to television to host "Saturday Night Live" just days after Donald Trump won the presidential election.

The episode brought season-high ratings in preliminary overnight numbers, and early reports indicate it could match or surpass ratings from a controversial 2015 episode when Trump hosted.

Trump's victory last week took many people by surprise. The election results might have thrown off a lesser stand-up, most comics who host "SNL" test out their monologue jokes for weeks. But Chappelle came armed with Trump-winning material just days later, showing his mastery of the art.

"You know, I didn't know that Donald Trump was going to win the election. I did suspect it," Chappelle began his monologue. "It seemed like Hillary was doing well in the polls and yet — I know the whites. You guys aren't as full of surprises as you used to be."



WILL HEATH/NBC

"Saturday Night Live" called on host Dave Chappelle's wit for a thoughtful coda to a divisive presidential campaign Nov. 12.

Chappelle also lampooned Trump's first meeting with Obama, two days before. "Got to tell you," Chappelle-as-Trump said, "this job looks like it's going to be a lot harder than I thought."

Chappelle-as-Obama replied: "Really? It's not that hard. I mean, at least you get to be white while you're doing it."

Chappelle also brought back well-known

"Chappelle's Show" characters in a pre-recorded short spoofing a recent scene from TV's "The Walking Dead."

It wasn't all jokes from Chappelle, though. "I'm wishing Donald Trump luck. And I'm going to give him a chance," Chappelle said at the end of his show-opening monologue. "And we, the historically disenfranchised, demand that he give us one, too."

Governors Awards for Hollywood's unsung stars

By SANDY COHEN
Associated Press

After accepting the first Academy Award ever given for casting, 88-year-old Lynn Stalmaster spontaneously danced onstage with Jeff Bridges.

Bridges called Stalmaster "the master caster, man," as he presented the casting director with an honorary Oscar on Nov. 12 at the film academy's Governors Awards.

The Academy Awards might be the jewel in Hollywood's awards-season crown, but the Governors Awards has become the hottest ticket in town. Packed with industry veterans and awards hopefuls, the televised ceremony is a feel-good schmooze-fest that celebrates the most venerable and often overlooked filmmaking talents while welcoming the next crop of potential nominees.

Besides Stalmaster, the eighth annual event honored action star Jackie Chan, film editor Anne V. Coates and documentarian Frederick Wiseman with honorary Academy Awards recognizing lifetime achievement. Joining the party were actors and directors from such buzzy new films as "La La Land," "Loving," and "Manchester by the Sea," with guests including Emma Stone, Joel Edgerton, Michelle Williams, Ava DuVernay, Lupita Nyong'o, Andrew Garfield, Marion Cotillard, Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Helen Mirren, Sylvester Stallone and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Stalmaster was visibly moved by his Oscar moment. No Oscar category exists for casting directors, who only formed a branch within the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences three years ago.

"Near in my wildest dreams did I imagine I'd be standing here," said Stalmaster, whose credits include "West Side Story," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Deliverance" and "Tootsie."

No Oscar category exists for the kinds of films Jackie Chan makes, either, and he also was stounded to be receiving a statuette.

The 62-year-old writer-director-producer-actor said he always coveted an Academy Award, but the closest he ever got was seeing one at Stallone's house.

"I touched it, I kissed it, I smelled it. I believe it still has my fingerprints," Chan said. "After 56 years in the film industry, making more than 200 films, with so many bones (broken), finally this is mine."

Coates, a five-time Oscar nominee and winner for 1962's "Lawrence of Arabia," was introduced by Nicole Kidman and Richard Gere, who called her "the greatest of the great, great film editors."

Wiseman, 84, has averaged almost a film a year since his first documentary was released in 1961, exploring subjects including blindness, the U.S. public housing and juvenile court.

Post-election weekend a boost for box office

Associated Press

Moviegoers drained by the drama of the presidential election sought refuge at the movies over the weekend, where ticket sales were robust for just about everything.

Marvel's "Doctor Strange" led the North American box office for the second week with \$4.3 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That was an especially strong hold for the Benedict Cumberbatch-led superhero blockbuster, which is now nearing \$500 million globally. "Trolls," the musical animated release starring Anna Kendrick and Justin Timberlake, also held well in its second week with \$35.1 million, bringing its cumulative domestic total to \$94 million.

Denis Villeneuve's science-fiction thriller "Arrival," starring Amy Adams, scored the weekend's top debut with a better-than-expected \$24 million. Opening in fourth was "Almost Christmas," the first holiday-themed release to hit theaters. The family gathering comedy, starring Danny Glover and Gabrielle Union, debuted with \$15.6 million.

John Oliver slams Trump, calls presidency 'not normal'

John Oliver has used nearly the entire season finale of his HBO show to criticize President-elect Donald Trump.

A highly animated Oliver took issue with news pundits calling for the public to give the Republican a chance. Oliver says that "optimism is nice," but warned that such attitudes could "feed into the normalization of Donald Trump." Oliver says giving Trump "a chance in the sense of not speaking out immediately against the policies he's proposed is dangerous, because some of them are alarming."

He encouraged Americans to keep in mind that Trump being president "is not normal" and encouraged people who want to leave the U.S. to stay and fight Trump's policies.

Redford says he's retiring from acting to focus on directing

Film star Robert Redford says he's retiring from acting to focus on directing.

In an online interview with his grandson

Dylan Redford, the 80-year-old star says he's getting tired of acting. "I'm an impatient person, so it's hard for me to sit around and do take after take after take," he says.

He notes in the interview that he has two acting projects in the works: "Our Souls at Night," with Jane Fonda, and "The Old Man and the Gun," with Casey Affleck and Sissy Spacek.

"Once they're done, then I'm going to say, 'OK, that's goodbye to all that,' and then just focus on directing," Redford says.

Other news

■ Grammy-winning pop star Pink is expecting her second child with husband and motocross champ Carey Hart. Pink, 37, posed a baby-bump shot with 5-year-old daughter Willow on Instagram. The caption read simply, "Surprise!"

■ Leon Russell, who performed, sang and produced some of rock 'n' roll's top records, has died. He was 74. Russell's wife, Jan Bridges, said in a statement that her husband died in his sleep Sunday in Nashville.



RYAN BAILEY/AP

Dan Barkalow and Bruce Springsteen

Fellow bikers rescue stranded Springsteen

Coming across Bruce Springsteen on a broken-down motorcycle on the side of the road could probably be a lyric from one of his songs, but it really happened for a group of guys from New Jersey.

A group from the Freehold American Legion was riding after a Veterans Day event Nov. 11 when Dan Barkalow says he saw a stranded motorcyclist ahead near Allaire State Park in Wall Township, N.J.

"Bikers gotta stick together," Barkalow said. "I stopped to see if he needed help, and it was Bruce."

Barkalow says they tried to help get his bike running, but when they couldn't, Springsteen hopped on the back of Ryan Bailey's bike and they headed to a local bar.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Samsung agrees to buy Harman for \$8B

By YOUNGJUK LEE

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Samsung Electronics said Monday it has agreed to acquire auto-systems maker Harman for \$8 billion as the South Korean giant eyes the growing market for connected cars.

Samsung will pay \$112.00 per share in cash for the Stamford, Conn.-based company, making the acquisition Samsung's biggest ever.

Overseas acquisitions are high on Samsung's agenda. Last month, the company bought artificial intelligence firm Viv Labs, founded by creators of Apple's Siri. It also recently bought a cloud service provider, a mobile payments firm and a connected home startup.

Harman provides connected

cars and audio systems with safety and entertainment features. More than 30 million cars are equipped with its auto systems. The majority of its \$7 billion in annual sales in the year that ended Sept. 30 came from auto-related technologies.

"Upon closing, the transaction will immediately give Samsung a significant presence in the large and rapidly growing market for connected technologies, particularly automotive electronics, which has been a strategic priority for Samsung," the company said in a statement.

Samsung is a latecomer to the market for connected cars. In December 2015, the company made its ambitions for the self-driving-car sector known by announcing that it will create a business division to focus on auto systems and components for autonomous



Ahn Young-joon/AP

A man with a mobile phone walks by the Samsung headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, in 2013. Samsung said Monday it has agreed to acquire auto-systems maker Harman for \$8 billion.

driving.

Apple and Google already were working with global automakers to supply their auto systems, CarPlay and Android Auto.

The company plans to keep

Harman as an independent subsidiary and retain its management team. Samsung's automotive electronics business team will work closely with Harman's management, it said.

EXCHANGE RATES

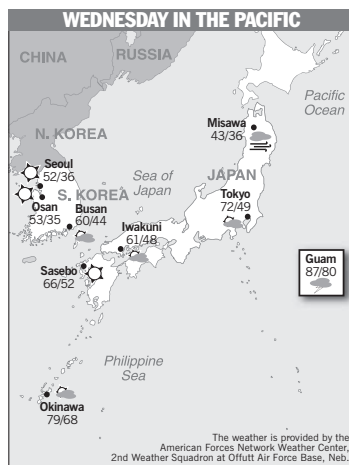
Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 15)	\$1.0955
Dollar buys (Nov. 15)	\$0.9046
British pound (Nov. 15)	\$1.28
Japanese yen (Nov. 15)	103.00
South Korean won (Nov. 15)	1,139.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3781
British pound	\$1.2472/0.8018
Canada (dollar)	1.3568
China (Yuan)	6.8461
Denmark (Krone)	6.9489
Egypt (Pound)	15.3779
Euro	\$1.0712/0.9335
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7580
Hungary (Forint)	280.71
Israel (Shekel)	3.8575
Japan (Yen)	108.42
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3037
Norway (Krone)	5.1589
Philippines (Peso)	49.28
Poland (Zloty)	4.11
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4177
South Korea (Won)	1,173.47
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9999
Thailand (Baht)	35.51
Turkey (New Lira)	3.2900

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.50
3-month bill	0.36
Federal funds market rate	0.42
3-month bill	0.36
30-year bond	2.94

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Tuesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	80	52	Cir	Chatanooga	68	44	Cir	Fort Wayne	58	41	Cir	Louisville	64	43	Cir	Pocatello	66	36	Cir
Akron, Ohio	55	43	Cir	Cheney	70	40	Cir	Fresno	75	51	Cir	Lubbock	79	44	Cir	Portland, Maine	52	48	Rain
Albany, N.Y.	59	39	Rain	Chicago	57	42	PCldy	Goodland	73	39	Cir	Macon	72	45	Cir	Portland, Ore.	56	42	Rain
Albuquerque	70	42	Cir	Cincinnati	59	42	Cir	Grand Junction	66	38	Cir	Medford	55	39	Rain	Pueblo	76	36	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	53	37	Cir	Cleveland	57	44	Cir	Grand Rapids	56	42	Cir	Memphis	70	51	PCldy	Raleigh-Durham	63	40	PCldy
Anchorage	35	21	Cir	Colorado Springs	71	41	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	63	40	Cir	Midland-Odesa	79	47	Cir	Rapid City	64	38	PCldy
Asheville	62	40	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	72	49	Cir	Greenville, S.C.	68	41	Cir	Milwaukee	55	41	Cir	Richmond	68	38	PCldy
Atlanta	68	49	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	57	42	Cir	Harrisburg	54	39	Cir	Missoula	52	33	Rain	Rochester	55	39	PCldy
Austin	60	52	Cir	Concord, N.H.	50	44	Rain	Hartford	51	42	Rain	Mpls-St Paul	58	36	PCldy	Rockford	68	37	PCldy
Atlantic City	59	40	Rain	Corpus Christi	84	57	Cir	Helena	57	30	Cir	Minneapolis	52	33	Rain	Sacramento	68	47	Cir
Baltimore	57	40	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	80	53	Cir	Honolulu	85	72	Cir	Montgomery	73	47	PCldy	St. Louis	68	48	Cir
Bat Rouge	75	53	PCldy	Dayton	58	41	Cir	Houston	80	56	Cir	Nashville	67	44	Cir	Tulsa	77	47	Cir
Bilings	60	40	Cir	Denver	76	42	Cir	Huntsville	68	44	PCldy	New Orleans	74	39	Cir	Tupelo	71	47	PCldy
Birmingham	69	47	Cir	Des Moines	66	37	PCldy	Indianapolis	69	41	PCldy	New York City	51	43	Rain	Waco	80	49	Cir
Bismarck	57	33	PCldy	Detroit	56	43	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	72	47	Cir	North Platte	69	36	Cir	Washington	57	43	Cir
Boise	57	41	Cir	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Jacksonville	75	47	Cir	Omaha	67	39	Cir	Wichita Falls	80	50	Cir
Boston	55	50	Rain	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Janeau	39	33	Rain	Orlando	76	53	PCldy	Wilmington, Del.	56	40	Cir
Bridgeton	54	42	Rain	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Kansas City	70	44	Cir	Paducah	67	43	Cir	Yakima	51	33	Cir
Brownsville	83	60	Cir	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Key West	64	45	PCldy	Pandora	54	37	Cir	Yonkers	56	38	Cir
Burlington	48	40	Cir	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Knoxville	70	44	Cir	Pendleton	54	37	Cir				
Caribou, Maine	68	44	Cir	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Lake Charles	79	55	Cir	Phoenix	89	62	Cir				
Charleston, S.C.	69	48	Cir	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Lansing	79	58	Cir	Pittsburgh	55	43	PCldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	69	48	Cir	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Las Vegas	79	58	Cir								
Charlotte, N.C.	66	41	Cir	El Paso	75	46	Cir	Lexington	69	38	Cir								
				El Paso	75	46	Cir	Little Rock	72	50	Cir								
				El Paso	75	46	Cir	Los Angeles	80	59	PCldy								

National temperature extremes

Hi: 90° San Diego, Calif.
Lo: 20° St. Louis, Mo., Colo.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sun, 93, San Diego
Lo: Sun, 15, Alamosa, Colo.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) on 5 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. (ISSN 0022-4902, APO 96338-5002). Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. Unit 450022, APO AF 96338-5002.

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OPINION

What Trump picks sets foreign policy tone

By JACKSON DIEHL

The Washington Post

The Trump administration will put an end to the 100 years of U.S. global leadership that began in 1918. It will rend the NATO alliance, cede Eurasia to Russia and the Pacific to China, and adopt as the United States' best friends populist and authoritarian regimes that despise immigrants and globalization.

Or, after a few early scrapes, its foreign policy will slowly devolve into a somewhat rudimentary version of President Barack Obama's. It will bomb terrorists while trying to extract the U.S. from the Middle East; mix negotiations with Russia and China with pushback against their aggressions; and berate European and Asian allies about their inadequate defense spending without breaking the U.S. commitment to defend them. It will downplay human rights and may even look for deals with rogue regimes, such as North Korea.

You could hear both these predictions in Washington last week, sometimes from the same source, for the simple reason that nobody, probably not including Trump himself, really knows what he will do in foreign affairs. The fear is he will drive the world deeper into chaos and start a global trade war, or maybe a real war. The hope is that he will be tamed, as outsiders promising radical change frequently are, by sane advisers, the bureaucracy, Congress and a sense of the responsibilities of office.

We might not know for a while. But two big tests will show us where Trump is going, and the first will come quickly: appointments. The would-be Trump-tamers are fervently hoping he will choose to staff top national security posts with seasoned

hands: Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.; former national security adviser Stephen Hadley; David Petraeus. To do that they must overcome his strong inclination to install eccentric cronies such as Newt Gingrich, Rudy Giuliani or retired Gen. Michael Flynn.

Gingrich may be out; journalist David Corn quoted him Sunday as saying he did not want to be secretary of state. But Giuliani, who reportedly wants it, is ignorant of foreign affairs. Flynn, who once sat next to Vladimir Putin at a dinner during a paid speaking trip to Moscow, is suspected of being a Russian stooge.

The top appointments matter because they will determine whether scores of Republican foreign policy professionals join or shun the new administration. If they sign up, policymaking may take a relatively conventional course. If not, the White House could resemble the Baghdad Green Zone early in the Iraq War, where eager but clueless political recruits steered the U.S. occupation toward disaster.

The other big test will be Trump's handling of Putin. The president-elect's credentialed defense of the Russian ruler during the campaign — Trump denied Moscow's interference in the campaign even after he was briefed on it by the CIA — remains mysterious. Is Trump simply an admirer of Putin's strongman strength, or does he somehow feel beholden to him, because of the billions of Trump fans or Russian investments in his businesses?

We may still be in the dark when Trump is sworn in. But if he follows up on his suggestion of an early meeting with Putin, we will start to see if the new president is different from Obama and George W. Bush, both of whom started by trying to

cultivate the Putin regime. Putin will ask for the lifting of U.S. sanctions imposed because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and for a U.S.-Russia alliance behind the Bashar Assad regime in Syria. Will Trump comply?

If he does, we will know that the global order is shifting. That's because Trump's stance toward Russia will shape his relations with key allies in Europe and the Middle East. If he betrays what has been solid Western support for Ukraine, NATO leaders, starting with Germany's Angela Merkel, will be undermined and offended. Smaller nations in Central Europe will rush to make their own deals with Putin. If NATO's recent deployment of troops to deter Russian aggression in the Baltic states crumbles, so will the alliance.

In Syria, U.S. alignment with Russia will quickly alienate America's Sunni allies such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan, which see the Syrian civil war as a proxy fight with Iran. That has been contemptuous of some of those allies. But if he wants to defeat the Islamic State group, he will need their help. Israel, too, wants to see the U.S.-Sunni alliance rebuilt. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with whom Trump has promised warm relations, will be pressing for tough U.S. action against Iran, including an abrogation of the nuclear pact. Putin, a partner to the deal, will object to that, as will Merkel.

No doubt Trump has not even begun to grapple with these complications. When he does, we will know if U.S. global leadership is headed for more of the slow erosion of recent years — or a radical collapse.

Jackson Diehl is deputy editorial page editor for The Washington Post.

'Land of the free' needed Fermi, other immigrants

By BETTINA HOERLIN and GINO SEGRE

Special to The Philadelphia Inquirer

In 1939, when an Italian immigrant arrived for his appointment with a Navy admiral in Washington, he overheard the desk officer announcing, "There's a wop outside."

The immigrant had been designated by key physicists to warn U.S. military leaders about the impending peril of the Nazis developing nuclear weapons. The scientists thought Enrico Fermi, having just won the 1938 Nobel Prize for physics, would give extra weight to his scientific fears. Fermi had reached American shores a mere two months earlier, picking up his Nobel in Sweden as he traveled his escape route from fascism and anti-Semitism in Italy.

Today the derogatory term "wop," roughly meaning Italian thug, is rarely used. But America has regrettably found other ways of stigmatizing immigrants, equally demeaning and conveying a clear message of their not being wanted or valued. Luckily, Fermi ignored the insult and went on to become one of this country's most loyal citizens and among its most celebrated physicists.

Under Fermi's leadership, the world's first nuclear self-sustaining chain reaction was achieved Dec. 2, 1942, at the University of Chicago. That seminal event marked the birth of the atomic age and was the necessary precursor to nuclear weapons, as it was to nuclear medicine. Shrouded in secrecy, the discovery became a basis for the Manhattan Project, the major industrial enterprise employing 100,000 people, all sharing the mission of beating Nazi Germany in building an atomic bomb. Fermi was recruited to its Los Alamos Laboratory site as an associate director and a special division became named after him.

On this remote mesa in New Mexico,

Fermi joined forces with several other fellow refugees who had fled tyranny and persecution to live in a country of freedom and tolerance. They, too, were drawn to Los Alamos by the desire to participate in the war effort and by the urgency of the task.

Sometimes called "refugee scientists," they were renowned in the world of physics. Many were Jewish or took refuge from war, married to someone Jewish. The cafeteria at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory was abuzz with foreign languages, although the scientists were all urged to speak English with one another. ...

The discoveries of yet another refugee to America, Albert Einstein, were put to the tasks at Los Alamos. Fermi had prophetically noted in 1922 that Albert Einstein's famous equation implied the possible delivery of a vast quantity of nuclear energy. "It does not seem possible, at least in the near future," he observed, "to discover a way to release the energy stored in the nucleus of an energy, just as well for its first effect would be to smash into smithereens the physicist who had the misfortune of finding the way to produce it."

Little did Fermi realize that he would be one of those physicists who found "a way to produce it." Fermi was involved in every phase of the Manhattan Project, whether as a researcher, an administrator or an adviser, and he played a pivotal role in its success. All of this is particularly remarkable because government bureaucracies had alternatively regarded Fermi as a security risk, an enemy alien and, most hurtfully, a committed fascist. When the Army had performed a background check of him in August 1940, its report concluded, "Employment of this person on secret work is not recommended." That recommendation was thankfully overruled.

In 1941, when the U.S. officially entered World War II, the government imposed

a set of restrictions on Italian, German and Japanese immigrants, labeling them enemy aliens. For Fermi, that meant it was cumbersome to commute between Columbia University, where he taught, to the University of Chicago, where he headed a research team intent on proving that fission could be controlled.

Every time Fermi traveled, he needed special permission that was granted only grudgingly by authorities. It was made more complicated by the secret nature of his mission that prohibited him from explaining the reason for frequent trips to questioning bureaucrats. But by the time Fermi moved to Los Alamos in the summer of 1944, his status had changed from enemy alien to one of holding this nation's highest security clearance. And he had become a U.S. citizen.

Upon Fermi's death at age 53 in 1954, the iconic broadcaster Edward R. Murrow wrote a eulogy that was good fortune for this country that Dr. Fermi found asylum in 1938. Under the present immigration laws, he might not be admissible. ... His exclusion would be shared by other immigrant founding fathers of the atomic age.

With trademark astuteness, Murrow was right. The nation's good fortune is the time that was sully America's reputation as a decent and inclusive country. Murrow brought to the fore an issue that still resounds in America.

Obviously not all refugees are Fermis, but there just might be one like him among them. The nation's good fortune is the U.S. recipients of 2016 Nobel Prizes are immigrants. ... With the growing threat of changes to immigration policies, America's place as a welcoming land of opportunity is more important to preserve than ever.

Bettina Hoerlin and Gino Segre are authors of the recently published "The Pope of Physics: Enrico Fermi and the Birth of the Atomic Age."

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

FUTURE ELECTION POLLSTERS...

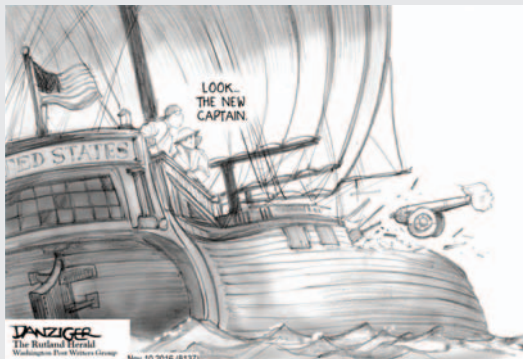


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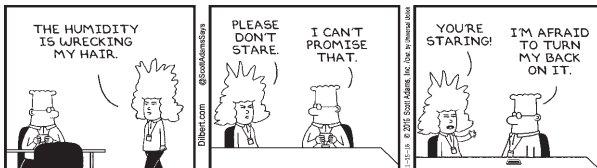


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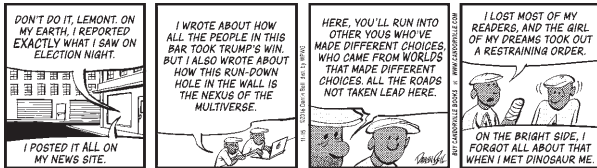
Pearls Before Swine



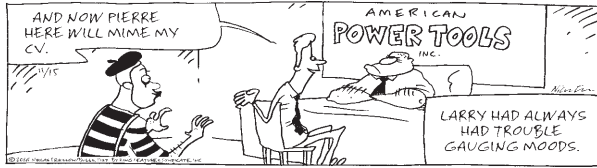
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
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						36				37		
38	39					40	41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

ACROSS

- 1 Bell sound
- 5 Speech problem
- 9 Frozen water
- 12 Sicilian peak
- 13 "Yes —?"
- 14 Reunion gp.
- 15 Monthly payment
- 17 Candied veggie
- 18 Pub orders
- 19 Ecstasy's opposite
- 21 Pesto herb
- 24 Lady of the haws
- 25 Flightless birds
- 26 Flight of steps
- 30 Lumber unit
- 31 Whirls
- 32 "Big Blue"
- 33 Spirited steeds
- 35 Power co. supply
- 36 Cincinnati team
- 37 Country estate
- 38 Syrup flavor
- 40 Tiny branch
- 42 Kimono closer
- 43 Sir Winston —
- 48 The whole enchilada
- 49 French cleric
- 50 Helen's home
- 51 Aviv preceder

- 52 Reddish horse
- 53 Harvard rival

DOWN

- 1 Zing
- 2 Ordinal suffix
- 3 Year in Acapulco
- 4 Oahu verandas
- 5 Earring site
- 6 Rainbow
- 7 NBC sketch show
- 8 Sailor's star
- 9 So to speak
- 10 James of "The Godfather"
- 11 TV trophy
- 16 Right angle
- 20 Needlefish
- 21 Lugosi of film
- 22 Cupid's specialty
- 23 Placebo
- 24 Support group?
- 26 Hot tubs
- 27 Stannum
- 28 First victim
- 29 Village People hit
- 31 Brandy cocktail
- 34 — canto
- 35 Fourscore
- 37 Crooner Damone
- 38 Castle defense
- 39 Competent
- 40 Hefty horn
- 41 Wee songbird
- 44 "Veep" ailer
- 45 A Gershwin brother
- 46 Texer's chuckle
- 47 Caustic solution

Answer to Previous Puzzle

T	A	M	S	A	T	M	U	P	T	O
I	N	S	O	M	N	I	A	N	E	A
P	A	N	C	A	K	E	S	F	O	N
		C	I	A			T	R	U	N
R	A	M	E	N		L	I	A	R	
T	S	A	R		W	A	F	F	L	E
E	T	A		S	H	I	F	T	T	A
		O	M	E	L	E	T	S		B
			S	U	E	Y		D	A	N
C	A	N	C	E	L		N	O	R	
A	R	E	A		S	A		S	A	G
W	I	S	P		I	N	D	E	C	E
S	A	T	E		N	E	E		K	N

11-15

CRYPTOQUIP

HADLYFRUB, AMLA HGWDLYG

QKUU GYUB WRDCGDN KY

CDRRJKYF QRLAMRD. HMR'H

WDGZLZUB L QKYARD-NRJG.

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Announcements 040

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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Sport Utility Vehicle 172

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NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Montreal	16	13	2	1	27	53	34		
Boston	16	10	6	0	20	41	38		
Ottawa	15	8	5	1	19	35	35		
Tampa Bay	15	8	6	1	17	46	42		
Detroit	16	8	7	1	17	41	43		
Florida	15	7	7	1	15	40	39		
Toronto	15	6	8	3	15	44	55		
Buffalo	15	5	6	4	14	29	37		
Metropolitan Division									
N.Y. Rangers	16	12	4	0	24	65	36		
Pittsburgh	15	10	3	2	22	47	39		
Washington	14	9	4	1	19	37	34		
New Jersey	14	8	3	3	19	35	30		
Columbus	13	7	4	2	16	45	32		
Philadelphia	13	7	3	3	16	35	29		
N.Y. Islanders	15	5	7	3	13	40	47		
Carolina	14	4	6	4	12	38	46		

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Chicago	16	11	3	2	24	54	39		
Winnipeg	17	8	7	2	18	50	50		
Vancouver	14	8	5	1	17	41	28		
St. Louis	16	7	6	3	17	37	47		
Dallas	16	6	6	4	16	44	55		
Nashville	14	6	5	3	15	39	37		
Colorado	14	6	8	0	12	27	41		
Pacific Division									
Edmonton	16	9	6	1	19	46	41		
San Jose	15	9	6	0	18	37	36		
Anaheim	16	7	6	3	17	41	40		
Los Angeles	16	7	8	1	15	39	41		
Vancouver	16	6	9	1	13	33	48		
Calgary	16	5	10	1	11	39	59		
Arizona	14	4	9	0	10	38	59		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's games

Winnipeg 3, Los Angeles 2, SO
Vancouver 5, Dallas 4, OT
Minnesota 2, Ottawa 1, OT
Boston 3, Montreal 2

Monday's games

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders

Tuesday's games

Ottawa at Philadelphia

Washington at Columbus

San Jose at Carolina

Florida at Montreal

Nashville at Toronto

Tampa Bay at Detroit

Chicago at Winnipeg

Buffalo at St. Louis

Calgary at Minnesota

New Jersey at Dallas

Los Angeles at Colorado

N.Y. Rangers at Vancouver

Edmonton at Anaheim

Wednesday's games

Pittsburgh at Washington

Arizona at Calgary

Sunday

Canucks 5, Stars 4 (OT)

Dallas 2 1 1 0-4
Vancouver 1 0 3 1-5
First Period—1, Dallas, Eaves 5 (Harris, Seguin), 5:53. 2, Vancouver, Horvat 5 (Burrows, Baertsch), 6:05. 3, Dallas, Koroluk 4 (Faska, Benn), 6:32.
Second Period—4, Dallas, Eaves 6 (Harris, Seguin), 12:04.
Third Period—5, Vancouver, Eriksson 2 (Granlund), 5:26. 6, Vancouver, Sutter 2 (Sedin, Sedin), 6:06 (pp). 7, Dallas, Roussel 4 (Seguin), 11:49. 8, Vancouver, Stecher 4 (Harris, Horvat), 18:20.
Overtime—9, Vancouver, Granlund 4 (Sutter), 12:04.
Shots on Goal—Dallas 7-7-21. Vancouver 6-10-10-40-30.
Power-play opportunities—Dallas 0 of 2; Vancouver 1 of 3.
Goalies—Dallas, Lehtonen 3-4-3 (30 shots-25 saves). Vancouver, Miller 2-7-0 (21-17).
A—18,470 (18,890). T—2:32.



Canucks Loui Eriksson, left, and Erik Gudbranson, right, stop Stars center Tyler Seguin from getting a shot on goal on Sunday in Vancouver. The Canucks won 5-4 in overtime.

Rangers 3, Oilers 1

N.Y. Rangers 2 1 0-3
Edmonton 1 0 0-1
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Grabner 9 (Nash, Klein), 1:20. 2, N.Y. Rangers, Girardi 3 (Hayes, Miller), 13:18. 3, Edmonton, Sakers 1 (Maroon, McDavid), 18:45.
Second Period—4, N.Y. Rangers, Grabner 10, 14:35.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 12-7-8-27. Edmonton 13-14-12-39.
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 2.
Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Raanta 4-0 (39 shots-38 saves). Edmonton, Talbot 8-6 (27-24).
A—18,347 (18,641). T—2:27.

Blackhawks 3, Canadiens 2

Montreal 0 2 0-2
Chicago 1 2 0-3
First Period—1, Chicago, Forsling 1 (Hjalmarsson, Kruger), 12:06.
Second Period—2, Montreal, Weber 7 (Montoya, Markov), 0:59 (pp). 3, Montreal, Markov 2 (Radulov, Galchenyuk), 2:40. 4, Chicago, Hossa 9 (Toviss, Schmaltz), 11:29. 5, Chicago, Kane 6 (Toviss), 16:23.
Shots on Goal—Montreal 7-5-11-23. Chicago 9-13-13-35.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 1 of 2; Chicago 0 of 2.
Goalies—Montreal, Montoya 3-2-1 (35 shots-32 saves). Chicago, Crawford 8-3-2 (22-21).
A—21,762 (19,177). T—2:36.

Bruins 2, Avalanche 0

Boston 1 0 1-2
Colorado 0 0 0-0
First Period—1, Boston, Krejci 2 (Spooner, Backes), 9:30.
Second Period—2, Boston, Moore 4 (Krejci), 19:32.
Shots on Goal—Boston 12-23-10-45. Colorado 0-2-0-0-2.
Power-play opportunities—Boston 0 of 2; Colorado 0 of 2.
Goalies—Boston, Rask 10-1-0 (21 shots-21 saves). Colorado, Varlamov 3-7-0 (44-43).
A—15,808 (18,007). T—2:30.

Wild 2, Senators 1 (OT)

Minnesota 1 0 0 1-2
Ottawa 0 0 1 0-1
First Period—1, Minnesota, Suter 4 (Spurgeon, Staal), 18:36 (hl).
Second Period—2, Ottawa, Turris 7 (Karlsson, Neil), 5:06.
Overtime—3, Minnesota, Dumba 2 (Haula, Grunlund), 3:57.
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 9-15-13-5-10-11-2-36.
Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0 of 3; Ottawa 0 of 4.
Goalies—Minnesota, Kuemper 2-1-6 (36 shots-35 saves). Ottawa, Anderson 7-3-1 (42-40).
A—14,265 (19,153). T—2:36.

Jets 3, Kings 2 (SO)

Los Angeles 1 0 1-2
Winnipeg 2 0 0-3
First Period—1, LA, Pearson 6 (Purcell, Lewis), 5:38. 2, Winnipeg, Lowy 4 (Enstrom, Petan), 14:04 (pp). 3, Winnipeg, Dano 3 (Lowry, Enstrom), 17:55 (pp).
Second Period—4, Los Angeles, Gilbert 1 (Nolan), 12:58.
Third Period—2, Los Angeles 1 (Brown, King), 6:11. 3, Los Angeles 1 (Brown, King), 6:11. 4, Los Angeles 1 (Brown, King), 6:11.
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 6-6-15-2-29. Winnipeg 13-8-8-29.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 5; Winnipeg 2 of 5.
Goalies—Los Angeles, Buda 7-5-1 (29 shots-27 saves). Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 6-4-0 (29-27).
A—15,234 (15,015). T—2:43.



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Blackhawks right wing Patrick Kane, right, celebrates with left wing Vinnie Hinostroza after scoring his goal during the second period Sunday against the Canadiens in Chicago. The Blackhawks won 3-2.

Roundup

Kane snaps Habs' streak

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Patrick Kane keeps finding new ways to score big goals — and the Chicago Blackhawks keep on rolling.

Kane, the reigning NHL scoring leader and MVP, scored a spectacular tiebreaking goal late in the second period and the Blackhawks beat Montreal 3-2 on Sunday night, handing the league-leading Canadiens just their second regulation loss of the season.

Kane snapped a 2-all tie with 3:37 left in the second to cap a terrific individual effort. He skated down the slot, fooled Jeff Petry with a move and chipped a shot past AI Montoya — while falling to the ice with Max Pacioretty checking him closely from behind.

So where does that one rate in Kane's growing highlight reel library?

"It was a different one, that's for sure," Kane said. "I don't know if I've scored going to the ground like that. Pretty cool, for sure."

"That had the wow factor all over it," Chicago coach Joel Quenneville added. "All of a sudden he makes a play with a guy draped all over him, makes a great shot falling to the ice."

Even Montoya was impressed. "There's not many guys that can make that play," Montoya said. "He's one of two, and I think former Red Wings star Pavel Datsyuk is already gone. Heck of a goal."

Marian Hossa added his team-leading ninth and rookie Gustav Forsling scored his first in the NHL as Chicago improved to 9-9-2 in its last 11 and ended Montreal's four-game winning streak. The Blackhawks haven't lost in regulation since Oct. 21 at

Columbus.

"[The Canadiens] are 13-1-1 coming into tonight, so it's a big win for us," Kane said. "Good measuring stick. We know they played back-to-back, but we took it to 'em for the most part."

Rangers 3, Oilers 1: Michael Grabner scored twice, Antti Raanta stopped 38 shots and New York beat host Edmonton.

Canucks 5, Stars 4 (OT): Troy Stecher tied it with 1:40 left in the third period and Markus Granlund scored late in overtime, helping host Vancouver rally.

Dallas held leads of 3-1 and 4-3, but Vancouver got goals from Louis Eriksson, Brandon Stutter,

Bo Horvat and Stecher to force overtime. The Canucks were coming off a 1-5 road trip and have two wins in their last 12 games.

Jets 3, Kings 2 (SO): Mark Scheifele scored the deciding goal in a shootout to give host Winnipeg a victory over Los Angeles.

Wild 2, Senators 1 (OT): Matt Dumba scored late in overtime and Darcy Kuemper stopped 35 shots for host Minnesota.

Ryan Suter scored a short-handed goal for the Wild, and Kuemper was nearly perfect in his third start of the season.

Bruins 2, Avalanche 0: Tuukka Rask stopped 21 shots and David Krejci scored in the first period.

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Jamal Murray hit a three-pointer to pull Denver within 110-105 in the final seconds, but the rally came up short.

SOCER/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

US hopes to rebound at Costa Rica, where it has lost 8 in a row

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — The United States is in danger of becoming the fourth team to start 0-2 in the final round of CONCACAF's World Cup qualifying since the hexagonal format was adopted ahead of the 1998 tournament.

The Americans traveled to Central America on Sunday, two days after a 2-1 loss to Mexico in Columbus, Ohio — the Americans' first home loss in qualifying since 2001. They are 0-8-1 in qualifiers at Costa Rica — losing their last eight in a row.

"It's just part of the qualifying process, the whole kind of long road obviously over 10 games," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said after Friday's match. "And so it's not a problem, but it's obviously it's disappointing."

All three hosts lost Friday, the first time that happened in the hexagonal since Sept. 1, 2001, when the U.S. was defeated 3-2 by Honduras at Washington's RFK Stadium. But there is plenty of time to rebound.

The top three teams in the North and Central American and Caribbean finals advance to the 2018 tournament in Russia and the fourth-place nation meets Asia's No. 5 finisher in a playoff for another berth.

Canada (1997) and Trinidad and Tobago (2001) both started 0-2 and failed to qualify, but the Soca Warriors overcame losses to the U.S. and Guatemala in 2005 to finish fourth, then beat Bahrain in a playoff to reach the 2006 tournament in Germany.

The U.S. Soccer Federation noted the average points needed to qualify from the hex has been 15.6, which means the U.S. would need four points on the road if form holds and it wins four remaining home matches. The U.S. earned six points on the road in the final round of qualifying for the 1998 tournament, five for

2002 and seven in each of the last three cycles.

"We have to look forward, pick ourselves up," forward Jozy Altidore said.

The U.S. left behind goalkeeper Tim Howard, who departed the opener in the 40th minute after injuring the adductor muscle in his right leg.

Costa Rica has become the perennial No. 3 team in the region behind Mexico and the U.S., and Los Ticos reached the quarterfinals of the 2014 World Cup before losing to the Netherlands on penalty kicks.

In the Americans' first qualifying match at Costa Rica, John Kerr scored in the 44th minute off Jeff Hooker's cross after Mike Windischmann's long pass down a flank, to gain a 1-1 draw on May 26, 1985, at Estadio Alejandro Moreira in Alajuela, about 13 miles from San Jose. Oscar Ramirez had put the hosts ahead about one minute earlier after Arnie Mausser misplayed a cross.

The U.S. then lost seven consecutive qualifiers by a combined 16-5 at San Jose's Estadio Sapriisa, where fans were right behind the benches and some threw bags of urine at the visitors.

The site shifted in 2013 to Estadio Nacional, which opened two years earlier and has an athletic track around the field. The result was similar, with the Americans giving up goals to Johnny Acosta and Celso Borges in the first nine minutes of a 3-1 loss that ended

their team-record winning streak at 12 games, three shy of Spain's world mark. American midfielder Michael Bradley, originally in the starting lineup, limped off the field during warmups after spraining his left ankle and was on crutches at the bench during the match.

"The message is very simple," Klinsmann said after the loss. "We've got to do down there and get a result, which we will do."



JAMES CRISP/AP

Kentucky's Isaiah Briscoe, left, looks for an opening on Canisius' Martin Dixon-Green during the first half on Sunday in Lexington, Ky. Briscoe scored a career-high 21 points in the Wildcats' victory.

Men's Top 25 roundup

Briscoe leads Kentucky romp

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Isaiah Briscoe expected all those NBA workouts focused on improving his game to pay off with efforts like this.

Judging from how newcomer DeAaron Fox followed his lead, Briscoe picked up some leadership pointers as well.

Briscoe and Fox each scored a career-high 21 points, Malik Monk added 16 and No. 2 Kentucky pulled away from Canisius early in the second half for a 93-69 victory Sunday night.

Briscoe topped his previous high of 20 last December at UCLA behind 9-for-13 shooting that helped Kentucky (2-0) rally from a seven-point first half deficit to build a 44-35 halftime advantage.

"I was just doing whatever I needed to do to keep my team in the game," said Briscoe, who attended those camps before returning for his sophomore season. "We came out sluggish, we weren't hitting shots, so I had to keep us in the game."

Freshmen and fellow guards

Fox and Monk combined to shoot 11-for-24 on their career scoring bests in their short careers, while 6-foot-10 newcomer Bam Adebayo had 14 points and 11 rebounds a game after a foul-plagued debut on Friday.

Kassius Robertson had 16 points, Jermaine Crompton 13 and Phil Valenti 12 for Canisius (0-1) in the coaching debut of Reggie Witherspoon.

No. 6 North Carolina 97, Chattanooga 57: Joel Berry II scored 18 points to help host North Carolina beat Chattanooga.

Kennedy Meeks added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Tar Heels (2-0), who have won 15 straight home openers. UNC shot 56 percent through the first 24 minutes in building a lopsided lead, pushing ahead for good with a 21-5 run late in the first half for a 44-33 lead at the break.

The Tar Heels then scored nine straight out of the break to blow it open.

Greg Pryor scored 17 points for the Moocs (1-1), who won Friday at Tennessee.

No. 16 UCLA 102, Cal State

Northridge 87: At Los Angeles, Isaac Hamilton scored 22 points, Bryce Alford had 20 and UCLA had a big second half to rout Cal State Northridge.

UCLA (2-0) had 11 turnovers in first half, shot 39.4 percent from the field and trailed 42-40.

The Bruins scored the first seven points of the second half, and cruised to the victory. Five of those seven points came from star freshman Lonzo Ball. He hit a three-pointer and went coast-to-coast with a one-handed dunk. Kendall Smith scored 21 points for the Matadors (1-1).

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NFL SCOREBOARD

American Conference

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East					
New England	4	0	1.000	278	241
Atlanta	4	0	1.000	264	251
Buffalo	4	0	1.000	244	203
N.Y. Jets	4	0	1.000	300	179
West					
Houston	5	0	1.000	667	161
Indianapolis	4	0	1.000	264	251
Philadelphia	4	0	1.000	244	239
San Diego	4	0	1.000	244	239
North					
Baltimore	5	0	1.000	556	182
Pittsburgh	4	0	1.000	444	214
Cincinnati	4	0	1.000	438	167
Cleveland	4	0	1.000	438	167
West					
Kansas City	7	0	1.000	778	205
Oakland	7	0	1.000	778	225
San Diego	4	0	1.000	400	292

National Conference

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East					
Dallas	5	0	1.000	600	258
N.Y. Giants	5	0	1.000	625	161
Washington	5	0	1.000	611	219
Philadelphia	5	0	1.000	656	246
West					
Atlanta	6	0	1.000	600	320
Tampa Bay	4	0	1.000	444	216
New Orleans	4	0	1.000	444	216
Carolina	3	0	1.000	333	221
North					
Detroit	5	0	1.000	556	205
Minnesota	4	0	1.000	556	175
Green Bay	4	0	1.000	556	175
Chicago	2	0	1.000	222	211
West					
Seattle	6	0	1.000	722	193
Arizona	4	0	1.000	500	202
San Francisco	4	0	1.000	500	202
San Diego	4	0	1.000	500	202
Thursday's game					
Baltimore	26	1	0.692	21	23

Sunday's game

W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East					
Washington	26	1	0.692	21	23
Los Angeles	9	0	1.000	21	23
San Diego	24	0	1.000	21	23
Kansas City	20	0	1.000	21	23
San Francisco	20	0	1.000	21	23
Denver	25	0	1.000	21	23
Green Bay	25	0	1.000	21	23
Arizona	23	0	1.000	21	23
Dallas	23	0	1.000	21	23
San Diego	23	0	1.000	21	23
Atlanta	23	0	1.000	21	23
Carolina	23	0	1.000	21	23
Chicago	23	0	1.000	21	23
Monday's game					
Cincinnati	23	0	1.000	21	23
Thursday, Nov. 17					
New Orleans	23	0	1.000	21	23
Monday, Nov. 18					
Baltimore	23	0	1.000	21	23
Atlanta	23	0	1.000	21	23
Carolina	23	0	1.000	21	23
Chicago	23	0	1.000	21	23
Cincinnati	23	0	1.000	21	23
Cleveland	23	0	1.000	21	23
Dallas	23	0	1.000	21	23
Denver	23	0	1.000	21	23
Detroit	23	0	1.000	21	23
Green Bay	23	0	1.000	21	23
Indianapolis	23	0	1.000	21	23
Los Angeles	23	0	1.000	21	23
Minnesota	23	0	1.000	21	23
New England	23	0	1.000	21	23
New Orleans	23	0	1.000	21	23
New York	23	0	1.000	21	23
Philadelphia	23	0	1.000	21	23
Pittsburgh	23	0	1.000	21	23
San Diego	23	0	1.000	21	23
San Francisco	23	0	1.000	21	23
Seattle	23	0	1.000	21	23
St. Louis	23	0	1.000	21	23
Tampa Bay	23	0	1.000	21	23
Tennessee	23	0	1.000	21	23
Washington	23	0	1.000	21	23
Week 13					
Atlanta	23	0	1.000	21	23
Baltimore	23	0	1.000	21	23
Carolina	23	0	1.000	21	23
Chicago	23	0	1.000	21	23
Cincinnati	23	0	1.000	21	23
Cleveland	23	0	1.000	21	23
Dallas	23	0	1.000	21	23
Denver	23	0	1.000	21	23
Detroit	23	0	1.000	21	23
Green Bay	23	0	1.000	21	23
Indianapolis	23	0	1.000	21	23
Los Angeles	23	0	1.000	21	23
Minnesota	23	0	1.000	21	23
New England	23	0	1.000	21	23
New Orleans	23	0	1.000	21	23
New York	23	0	1.000	21	23
Philadelphia	23	0	1.000	21	23
Pittsburgh	23	0	1.000	21	23
San Diego	23	0	1.000	21	23
San Francisco	23	0	1.000	21	23
Seattle	23	0	1.000	21	23
St. Louis	23	0	1.000	21	23
Tampa Bay	23	0	1.000	21	23
Tennessee	23	0	1.000	21	23
Washington	23	0	1.000	21	23
Week 14					
Atlanta	23	0	1.000	21	23
Baltimore	23	0	1.000	21	23
Carolina	23	0	1.000	21	23
Chicago	23	0	1.000	21	23
Cincinnati	23	0	1.000	21	23
Cleveland	23	0	1.000	21	23
Dallas	23	0	1.000	21	23
Denver	23	0	1.000	21	23
Detroit	23	0	1.000	21	23
Green Bay	23	0	1.000	21	23
Indianapolis	23	0	1.000	21	23
Los Angeles	23	0	1.000	21	23
Minnesota	23	0	1.000	21	23
New England	23	0	1.000	21	23
New Orleans	23	0	1.000	21	23
New York	23	0	1.000	21	23
Philadelphia	23	0	1.000	21	23
Pittsburgh	23	0	1.000	21	23
San Diego	23	0	1.000	21	23
San Francisco	23	0	1.000	21	23
Seattle	23	0	1.000	21	23
St. Louis	23	0	1.000	21	23
Tampa Bay	23	0	1.000	21	23
Tennessee	23	0	1.000	21	23
Washington	23	0	1.000	21	23

Monday's game

Thursday, Nov. 17

New Orleans

Monday, Nov. 18

Baltimore

Atlanta

Carolina

Chicago

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Dallas

Denver

Detroit

Green Bay

Indianapolis

Los Angeles

Minnesota

New England

New Orleans

New York

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

San Diego

San Francisco

Seattle

St. Louis

Tampa Bay

Tennessee

Washington

Week 13

Atlanta

Baltimore

Carolina

Chicago

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Dallas

Denver

Detroit

Green Bay

Indianapolis

Los Angeles

Minnesota

New England

New Orleans

New York

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

San Diego

San Francisco

Seattle

St. Louis

Tampa Bay

Tennessee

Washington

Week 14

Atlanta

Baltimore

Carolina

Chicago

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Dallas

Denver

Detroit

Green Bay

Indianapolis

Los Angeles

Minnesota

New England

New Orleans

New York

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

San Diego

San Francisco

Seattle

St. Louis

Tampa Bay

Tennessee

Washington

Week 15

Atlanta

Baltimore

Carolina

Chicago

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Dallas

Denver

Detroit

Green Bay

Indianapolis

Los Angeles

Minnesota

New England

New Orleans

New York

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

San Diego

San Francisco

Seattle

St. Louis

Tampa Bay

Tennessee

Washington

Week 16

Atlanta

Baltimore

Carolina

Chicago

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Dallas

Denver

Detroit

Green Bay

Indianapolis

Los Angeles

Minnesota

New England

New Orleans

New York

Philadelphia

Pittsburgh

San Diego

San Francisco

Seattle

St. Louis

Tampa Bay

Tennessee

Washington

Week 17

Atlanta

Baltimore

Carolina

Chicago

Cincinnati

Cleveland

Dallas

Denver

Detroit

Green Bay

Indianapolis

NFL

Moments: Victories could be catalysts for three surging teams

FROM BACK PAGE

Most impressive was the Seahawks' 31-24 win at Foxborough, a place visitors rarely leave with smiles on their faces. Particularly after settling for three field goals, missing an extra point kick and a dubious 2-point conversion attempt.

But in one of the most bone-rattling games imaginable — look for Earl Thomas' hit on Rob Gronkowski for proof — Seattle re-established its credentials as an opponent to be reckoned with. The Seahawks often come on in the second half of the schedule, and the way they punished the Patriots also handled the hits they were given in return bodes very well for Pete Carroll's club.

"It says exactly what our creed is: We fight until we can't fight no more," said safety Kam Chancellor, whose tight coverage on Gronkowski resulted in an incompletion from the Seattle 1 to end New England's chances. "We keep pushing forward and we keep fighting."

Seattle (6-2-1) won on Russell Wilson's arm (348 yards, 124.6 passer rating), Doug Baldwin's mits (three TD catches) and that fierce defense. It won even though Wilson remains almost stationary (for him) in the pocket because of bothersome leg injuries.

"It's been a tougher year in the sense of obviously, the injuries, and haven't faced that (limitation) before," Wilson said. "But there was no way I was going to let that stop me."

Denver, like Seattle, has had plenty of success recently, albeit with a certain No. 18 at quarterback. It is now 7-3 thanks greatly to its still-staunch defense.

And, of course, to a special teams play for the ages.

Justin Simmons leaped over the offensive line and blocked a potential go-ahead extra-point kick by Wil Lutz. Will Parks grabbed the loose ball, returning it 84 yards for a defensive 2-point conver-

sion with 1:28 left. The defensive 2-point play was only added to the rules prior to the 2015 season, and this was the first time the winning points came on such a play.

"I've never had an ending like that, especially on special teams," DeMarcus Ware said, and he's been in the NFL for nearly 12 seasons. "It was just big, a big victory."

The effect it could have, particularly with two rookies combining for such a brilliant and rare play, is immeasurable. The significance of an eight-game winning streak powered by two other kids — quarterback Dak Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott — is that Dallas is thinking big. After its 35-30 comeback sizzler in Pittsburgh, the Cowboys have earned the right to think as big as, well, Big D itself.

Asked if he's been around a team where two rookies have had such a quick impact, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones replied, "Not two that are so in sync to where they're feeding off each other and the team feeding off them. I haven't seen that."

What the world saw at Heinz Field was the kind of determination and resilience that can lead to championships. Every time the more-veteran Steelers delivered a haymaker — including a touchdown off a fake spike by Ben Roethlisberger — Dallas responded.

Elliott burst through a defense he said "parted like the Red Sea" and streaked to the end zone for a 32-yard touchdown to win it with 9 seconds remaining, and it might have been the most impressive act the fourth overall draft pick has delivered. And boy has he been delivering all year for a team that hasn't been a true championship contender for decades.

If the Broncos, Cowboys or Seahawks find their way to the Super Bowl, they surely can point to Week 10 as a catalyst.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Seattle Seahawks safeties Earl Thomas (29) and Kam Chancellor, rear, tackle New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass.

Week 10 takeaways

Stellar Sunday around NFL

Seahawks-Patriots fitting cap to most exciting day of season

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

What a way for Seattle and New England to cap the most exciting and enticing day of the NFL's largely lackluster season:

Tom Brady floating an end-zone fade for Rob Gronkowski with Kam Chancellor in coverage — three of the league's best players — on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with 11 seconds left to decide the outcome of a Super Bowl rematch from two seasons ago and possible championship preview for this season.

This is the sort of Sunday that draws folks in and doesn't let them go.

"A really cool night of football," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said after his team's 31-24 victory at the Patriots.

There really was nothing missing, from start to finish and everything in between, including:

- a potential winning extra point blocked and returned for a winning defensive 2-point conversion by the reigning champion Broncos to stun the Saints (with the bonus talking point of whether the guy who ran the ball back should have been ruled out of bounds or was spared that embarrassment because, as the league acknowledged afterward, his white shoes might or might not have blended in with the white sideline);

- a fake-spike TD pass by Ben Roethlisberger to Antonio Brown for the Steelers that was one-upped moments later by Ezekiel Elliott's 32-yard TD run with 9 seconds left for the Cowboys in a game that somehow included a half-dozen missed 2-point conversions;

- an apparently harmless completion with less than 30 seconds left in a tied game that was meaning toward overtime suddenly transformed into a turnover by Chiefs defensive back Marcus Peters, who ripped the ball away from Panthers wideout Kelvin Benjamin and set up Kansas City's winning, final-play field goal.

And so much more.

It all ended when Brady's pass for his elite tight end fell incomplete. Gronkowski and Chancellor, a superb safety, exchanged contact, but there was no flag, seemingly a miracle these days.

"It came down to one yard at the end," Brady la-



MARK ZALESKI/AP

Titans running back DeMarco Murray tied Hall of Famer Earl Campbell's franchise record of five consecutive games with a TD on the ground with his 75-yard score on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn.

mented, "and we didn't get it."

In case you missed it, here are other top topics after the NFL season's 10th Sunday:

DeMarco's not done: If anyone thought DeMarco Murray was done — and Tennessee, lest anyone forget, used a second-round pick on Derrick Henry this year — the running back sure put on a show in the Titans' 47-25 win over Aaron Rodgers and the slumping Packers. On his team's first play from scrimmage, Murray went 75 yards for a touchdown, tying Hall of Famer Earl Campbell's franchise record of five consecutive games with a TD on the ground. Then, for good measure, Murray threw for a score, too.

He did what?! Do yourself a favor and check out Tampa Bay QB Jameis Winston's one-of-a-kind play, when he scrambled this way and that for more than 10 seconds, covering more than 20 yards in the wrong direction — all the way back to his own end zone — before completing a 39-yard pass to a leaping Mike Evans that traveled a lot more than that. Then, one play later, Winston tossed a 43-yard TD pass to Freddie Martino in a 36-10 victory over Chicago.



BUTCH DILL/AP

Broncos defensive back Will Parks, right, celebrates in the end zone with teammates after returning a blocked extra point for a safety to beat the Saints in New Orleans on Sunday. The Broncos won 25-23.

NFL ROUNDUP

 **35**  **30**

PITTSBURGH—Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott have little interest in the big picture. Yes, the rookies understand the Dallas Cowboys are on a historic roll. Just don't expect them to start thinking about what it all means.

"I really don't think about what's normal and what's abnormal," Prescott said.

Maybe because what's happening in Dallas might be the new normal.

Elliott ran for 114 yards and two touchdowns — both in the final two minutes — and turned a screen pass into an 83-yard score as the Cowboys pulled off a thrilling 31 victory for their eighth straight win.

Twice late in the fourth quarter Dallas (8-1) had the ball in Pittsburgh territory with a chance to run out the clock and attempt a game-winning field goal. Twice Elliott found himself running free into the end zone, the last a 32-yard sprint up the middle with 9 seconds left.

"It parted like the Red Sea," Elliott said after pushing his season rushing total to an NFL-best 1,005 yards. "All I had to do was run."

Prescott overcame an early fumble to pass for 319 yards and two scores and felt his jaw drop while watching Elliott score the third and final touchdown of a wild final 115 seconds.

"I was just shaking my head like 'Wow,'" Prescott said. "We were just trying to get us in position to get in good field goal range and Zeke said otherwise."

Prescott also took another step toward stopping any discussion about the team's starting quarterback.

Veteran Tony Romo practiced during the week and is nearly fully recovered from a broken bone in his back, but he spent his Sunday the same way he spent every other one this season: in street clothes watching Prescott do his thing.

 **31**  **24**

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — This time, Seattle won it at the goal line. It certainly won't make up for the Super Bowl loss two seasons ago, but the Seahawks' goal-line stand lifted them over New England.

Tom Brady couldn't connect with Rob Gronkowski on a fade pattern on fourth down as New England (7-2) faded four times from inside the 2 in the dying moments.

It was reminiscent of how the Seahawks (6-2-1) lost the 2015 Super Bowl when Malcolm Butler intercepted at the goal line to win the NFL title for the Patriots.

Doug Baldwin caught three TD passes, including a 15-yarder for the final margin. Strangely, Seattle went for 2 points and failed on the conversion, leaving the Patriots a chance to tie with a touchdown and an extra point kick.

But LeGarrette Blount, who earlier rushed for three touchdowns, couldn't get into the end zone from close range, nor could Brady on a pair of sneaks.



Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott is tackled by Steelers free safety Mike Mitchell during the first half Sunday in Pittsburgh. The Cowboys won 35-30, their eighth straight victory.

 **25**  **23**  **23**  **20**  **26**  **20**

NEW ORLEANS — Denver's Justin Simmons used a perfectly timed leap over the offensive line to block an extra-point kick that would have given New Orleans a late lead, Will Parks ran it back 84 yards for a defensive 2-point conversion, and the Broncos pulled out a wild victory.

The decisive play came while the Superdome crowd was still celebrating Brandin Cooks' twisting, 32-yard touchdown catch between two defenders. That put New Orleans (4-5) in position to take the lead with 1:28 left. Simmons' block of Will Parks' kick was scooped up by Lutz, who nearly stepped out of bounds as he raced down the left sideline.

It was the first such play to provide the winning points in an NFL game. The rule was instituted last year.

 **31**  **24**

SAN DIEGO — Kiko Alonso intercepted Philip Rivers' pass and returned it 60 yards for a touchdown with 1:01 left to give Miami a fourth straight win. The Dolphins (5-4) intercepted Rivers four times in the fourth quarter.

Alonso jumped in front of Tyrell Williams and outtraced everybody into the end zone for the winning score.

Two plays into the ensuing drive, Rivers was intercepted again, by Tony Lippett, his second of the game.

Rivers threw three TD passes to move past John Elway for eighth place on the career list with 301.

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Chandler Catanzaro kicked a 34-yard field goal as time expired. Catanzaro missed twice on winning field goal tries earlier in the season, most memorably a 24-yarder in OT of a 6-6 tie against Seattle.

But this attempt was right down the middle as Arizona (4-4-1) narrowly averted a devastating loss.

The 49ers (1-8) lost their eighth in a row despite a strong game by Colin Kaepernick, who tied it 20-20 on a 4-yard run with 1:55 to play.

That was enough time for Carson Palmer to gain redemption after three second-half turnovers, the last an interception by Gerald Hodges that led to the tying touchdown.

 **20**  **17**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Marcus Peters stripped Kelvin Benjamin with 20 seconds left, Cairo Santos kicked a 37-yard field goal as time expired, and the Chiefs overcame a 17-point deficit.

The game was tied when Benjamin caught a pass from Cam Newton, and Peters ripped the ball from his arms. Santos' fourth field goal of the day split the up-rights, lifting the Chiefs (7-2) to their fifth straight victory and 17th win in their last 19 games.

Eric Berry also returned an interception 42 yards for a touchdown as Kansas City's defense came up with big plays when needed. The Chiefs failed to score an offensive touchdown.

LANDOVER, Md. — Kirk Cousins threw for two touchdowns, Preston Smith had two sacks and a game-altering interception in Washington's first victory in almost a month.

Washington (5-3-1) got all of its second-half points off the foot of Dustin Hopkins, who hit four field goals, including a 50-yarder. The Redskins shut out Minnesota (5-4) in the second half, and Smith sacked Sam Bradford in the final seconds to hand the Vikings their fourth consecutive loss.

Cousins was 22-for-33 for 262 yards with touchdown passes to Vernon Davis and Jamison Crowder. Robert Kelley ran for 97 yards, helping Washington bounce back from a rough 6-minute stretch.

 **47**  **25**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Marcus Mariota threw for 295 yards and four touchdowns in the rout. Five Titans scored a touchdown in the first half as Tennessee put together its best scoring performance this season with 35 points.

The Titans (5-5) matched their five victories over the past two seasons combined.

DeMarco Murray set the tone on the opening play from scrimmage, running 75 yards for a touchdown. He finished with 123 yards and also threw a TD pass, becoming the first non-quarterback to do that for this franchise in the same game since Earl Campbell on Sept. 7, 1980, for the then-Houston Oilers.

 **24**  **13**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Brock Osweiler threw two touchdown passes and Kareem Jackson returned an interception 42 yards for a score. The Texans (6-3) scored on offense and defense and set up another score with special teams, a complete team effort that led to their first road win of the season. It kept them perfect (3-0) against the AFC South. They won their fifth in a row against Jacksonville.

The Jaguars (2-7) lost their fourth straight and fell to 0-4 at home. Coach Gus Bradley's team rallied late, with Blake Bortles hitting Allen Robinson for a touchdown and again for a 2-point conversion.

The loss dropped Bradley's record to 14-43 in four seasons and prompted even the most loyal supporters to question why owner Shah Khan hasn't made a change.

 **36**  **10**

TAMPA, Fla. — Jameis Winston threw for 312 yards and two touchdowns against mistake-prone Chicago.

Winston threw for TDs of 10 yards to Cameron Brate and 43 yards to Freddie Martin, the latter set up by a bizarre highlight-reel play. The No. 1 pick in last year's draft scrambled 23 yards backward into his end zone before avoiding a safety and launching a 39-yard completion to Mike Evans for the Chicago 38.

Martino, a former practice squad player with two career receptions, scored his first NFL touchdown after a delay-of-game penalty pushed the Bucs (4-5) back to the 43.

Two weeks after returning from injury and helming the Bears (2-7) beat NFC North leader Minnesota, Jay Cutler threw two interceptions and fumbled twice, one resulting in a third-quarter safety that put the Bucs up 29-10.

The Bucs forced four turnovers overall and sacked Cutler four times.

 **9**  **6**

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Alec Ogletree intercepted Bryce Petty with just under two minutes left to clinch this snoozer. Petty made his first NFL start in place of an injured Ryan Fitzpatrick, but couldn't get much going against the Rams' defense.

After getting the ball with 2:55 remaining and down by three, Petty tried to lead the Jets (3-7) downfield. But Petty's pass to Quincy Enunwa was picked off by Ogletree and Enunwa tried to wrestle it away from the linebacker to no avail.

Greg Zuerlein caught three field goals, including a go-ahead 34-yarder with 6:52 left, helping the Rams (4-5) snap a four-game losing streak and avoid their first five-game skid since Weeks 9-13 last season.

The game featured 15 punts — eight by the Jets and seven by the Rams.

NFL/AUTO RACING

Wentz, Eagles get past Falcons

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — On his fifth try, Carson Wentz got his first comeback win.

Wentz got a big assist from Ryan Mathews and a resurgent run game to rally the Philadelphia Eagles past the Atlanta Falcons, 24-15 on Sunday.

Mathews ran for 108 yards and two touchdowns, and Caleb Sturgis made a clutch field goal from 48 yards to seal the win late.

In their four losses, the Eagles (5-4) had the ball and a chance to take the lead late but couldn't pull it out.

After the Falcons took a 15-13 lead on a 76-yard TD pass from Matt Ryan to Taylor Gabriel, Wentz led an eight-play, 76-yard drive that Mathews finished off by running in the 5. Mathews also scored the 2-point conversion for a 21-15 lead.

"It was good to finally finish a game and we are going to build on that for sure," Wentz said. "Obviously, the other four games we had a chance. It's good to get over that hump."

A tenacious defense then did its job twice when Ryan and the Falcons (6-4) had chances to drive for go-ahead scores.

The NFC South-leading Falcons have a week off before they host the Arizona Cardinals on Nov. 27. The Eagles visit the Seattle Seahawks next week.

Perfect at home: The Eagles are 4-0 at home, including convincing wins over the Steelers and Vikings. They've outscored their opponents 108-38. "It's a lot of fun playing in front of this crowd," Wentz said. "We have a lot of energy."



MATT ROUREK/AP

The Eagles' Carson Wentz looks to pass the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday, in Philadelphia.



RALPH FRESA/AP

Joey Logano drives out of Turn 4 ahead of Kyle Busch during the NASCAR Sprint Cup race on Sunday. Both will race for the title next week.

Logano in Chase after Phoenix win

Kyle Busch completes final four at Gibbs teammate Kenseth's expense

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Matt Kenseth's misfortune gave Joey Logano a chance to race for the championship.

In an improbable turn of events, Kenseth came within two laps of a spot next week in the title-deciding finale to eliminate from NASCAR's playoffs. Logano was gifted a victory Sunday that put him in the final four after a tense double-overtime event at Phoenix International Raceway.

Kenseth had the win in hand until a late caution sent the race to extra laps. Although he cleared traffic on the restart, his teammate Kyle Busch had contact with Alex Bowman that altered Bowman's racing line.

Kenseth's spotter told the driver he was clear, but he actually cut down on Bowman and the contact caused him to crash.

Logano saw the sequence unfold, let off his gas early, and slid into the lead after the accident. He then held off Busch in the second overtime for the win that qualified him for the championship next week at Homestead-Miami Speedway. Prior to

Kenseth's accident, Logano was in danger of elimination.

"I'm like 'Oh, shoot, we're out,' and it was going to be so close there at the end to try to get ourselves through, and next thing you know the caution comes out and the whole game changes," Logano said. "We find ourselves as the leader and we win the race. That's NASCAR racing at its finest."

Logano won the race — the second time in this Chase he used a victory in an elimination race to advance — and will race for his first Sprint Cup title next Sunday. He'll be trying to give Roger Penske a season sweep during its 50th anniversary season. Simon Pagenaud won the IndyCar title in September.

"I've never felt this good about a win before," Logano said. "There was so much on the line and everyone brings their A-game when it comes to winning championships and this team did it."

"I feel like I just won the Daytona 500 again."

Busch finished second and earned a chance to defend last year's title. He'll meet Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Carl Edwards and Jimmie Johnson, who is seeking

ing a record-tying seventh championship, in Homestead.

JGR, which was trying to get all four of its Toyotas into the final, wound up with only two and Busch wasn't feeling celebratory. He believed his contact with Bowman triggered the accident that wrecked Kenseth's season.

"It's really unfortunate and devastating to have the race come down like that," Busch said. "That's so frustrating and aggravating, and I feel horrible."

Eliminated from the playoffs on Sunday were Kevin Harvick, an eight-time winner at Phoenix who had raced in the last two finales, as well as his Stewart-Haas Racing teammate Kurt Busch. Gibbs drivers Kenseth and Denny Hamlin were also knocked out of the field.

"Disappointing would be the way to put it lightly," Kenseth said. "Finish that race five minutes before that, looked like we had a chance to go race for a championship. It was a big swing in 10 or 15 minutes."

Hamlin finished seventh after a bizarre decision not to pit with the rest of the field for track position. Although it gave him a brief lead, he was no match for drivers

with fresh tires.

"I knew it was going to be an uphill climb," Hamlin said.

Pit road penalties: NASCAR picked Sunday to enforce a rule against passing the pace car when a driver dips onto pit road for a stop. Martin Truex Jr. and Jimmie Johnson were both penalized for the infraction, and the punishment was holding the car for a lap on pit road.

Johnson and crew chief Chad Knaus were incredulous.

"I don't understand that in the least little bit," Johnson said on his radio. "This is absolutely ridiculous. NASCAR, I have no clue what I did wrong."

Johnson said he'll ask for clarification this week.

"In 15 years, that has never been a concern, and I was always told that the last thing NASCAR wanted to do would be to penalize the leader," Johnson said. "I am still baffled, and I don't know if I will stop being baffled."

Up next: The season finale at Homestead, where the championship will be decided. Harvick won the race in 2014 to win his championship, and Kyle Busch won last year to claim the title.

Hamilton forces title showdown with Rosberg

By STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Lewis Hamilton won Sunday's rain-delayed Brazil Grand Prix at Interlagos, and Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg again settled for second. It's the third straight race that Rosberg has been the runner-up behind Hamilton.

Is Rosberg frustrated? Not likely.

"I can live with second today," Rosberg said, ceding the stage again to the Englishman, whose victory was his first in Brazil after failing in nine other attempts. "I was hoping for

the win, but second is OK."

The German, whose father Keke Rosberg won the title 34 years ago, still leads the overall season standings with 367 points to 355 for Hamilton.

Drivers get 25 points for a victory, 18 for second, 15 for third, and 12 for fourth. The awards go all the way to 1 point for 10th place.

Sunday's race was stopped twice by crashes in driving rain during the first 28 of 71 laps. All but a half-dozen of the early laps were run behind a safety car with drivers struggling to see through tire spray and struggling to avoid hydroplaning in standing water.

The second half was less eventful, but still was slowed by another crash and another spell under the safety car.

Hamilton, the three-time series champion, said it looked tougher than it actually was.

"This was one of the easier ones," he said of his victory.

Hamilton said he was in "the zone" for the entire race, despite the stops and starts.

"I was chilling up front," Hamilton said. "When it rains, it's usually a good day for me."

"I'm hunting," he added. "All I can do is what I'm doing now. Abu Dhabi is usually a good track for me."

The victory was the 52nd of Hamilton's career, pushing him to No. 2 ahead of Alain Prost with 51. Michael Schumacher leads with 91.

The race was run behind a safety car for the first seven laps with rain pounding and drivers trying to navigate the spray and puddles.

SPORTS



Home stretch

Logano, Busch complete Chase final four » **Page 31**

NFL - WEEK 10



Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin



Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott

Defining moments

Not all victories are created equal

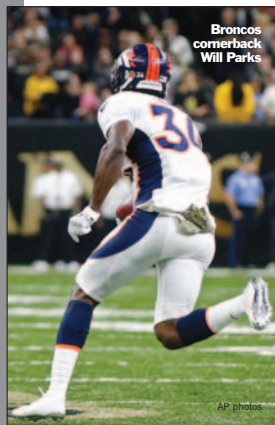
By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

Coaches and well-trained players will tell you that every win is worth the same.

They're wrong. No better examples can be found than the way Seattle, Dallas and Denver won on Sunday. Those victories are the kind that can define a season, catapult you to special things.

SEE MOMENTS ON PAGE 29

FOXBOROUGH, Mass.



Broncos cornerback Will Parks

AP photos

Kane's goal helps Chicago end Habs' streak » **Page 25**

Wiggins scores career-high 47 in T-wolves win » **Page 26**

Brisco, Fox help Kentucky pull away in romp » **Page 27**

